

Hafa Adai!

'Hold IPI 'completely responsible' for humanitarian crisis' **PAGE 2**  
Trump admin says no to Torres' request for match waiver. **PAGE 3**

75¢

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## IPI negotiating with former senator Yumul for CEO job

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has reached a verbal agreement with former Saipan senator Ray N. Yumul to be their new chief executive officer, Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom disclosed yesterday.

» **CCC board chair Deleon Guerrero says IPI must first pay casino license fee**



Yumul

Yumul, who attended the CCC board meeting at CCC's conference room at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai

yesterday, merely watched the proceedings and did not speak.

When asked if he has al-

See IPI on Page 4

### \$41.3M for 2nd stimulus checks OK'd

The U.S. Department of the Treasury has approved the CNMI 2020 Recovery Rebate Credit and Second Economic Impact Payments Plan that will lead to the release of another round of stimulus checks in the Commonwealth.

The Department of Fi-

nance's Division of Revenue & Taxation is expected to process nearly 31,000 checks for the second Economic Impact Payments. Eligibility and payment amount will be determined based on only 2019 tax returns. Each eligible indi-

See CHECKS on Page 4



President-elect Joe Biden stands with his wife Jill Biden after speaking at the Major Joseph R. "Beau" Biden III National Guard/Reserve Center, Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021, in New Castle, Del. AP

## FACING CRUSH OF CRISES Biden takes helm as president

By **JONATHAN LEMIRE**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—Joe Biden swears the oath of office at noon Wednes-

day (3am Chamorro standard time) to become the 46th president of the United States, taking the helm of a deeply divided nation and

See BIDEN on Page 4

## Rota residents to get vaccinated Sunday

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**  
justine\_nauta@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is set to start its vaccination campaign on Rota this Sunday, Jan. 24, at the Rota Health Center.

CHCC took to Facebook to announce the Rota vaccinations and, just like Saipan and Tinian's first batch of people to get vaccinated, people on Rota who fall under Phase 1A

will be prioritized.

See ROTA on Page 4

### AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Jan 20, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,485	36	7,521
Recovered	7,220	54	7,274
Active	83	36	119
Deaths	128	0	128
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			110,065

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	129	0	129
Traced via Travel Screening	103	0	103
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			26,131*
Days since last community transmission			154

\*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.



A Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. employee administers a COVID-19 vaccine at the Medical Care and Treatment Site behind the Commonwealth Health Center in Garapan.

NEIL FAMA

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

## INSIDE



### BUSINESS

Island Café & Restaurant: Budget friendly and comfort combined.

PAGE 11



### WORLD

The Kremlin brushes aside calls from the West to release opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

PAGE 13



### LIFE & STYLE

The teenager whom President-elect Joe Biden befriended as a fellow stutterer has a book deal.

PAGE 15



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# Local



Commonwealth Casino Commission board chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero, center, presides over their monthly board meeting at the CCC conference room at Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai yesterday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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### PROPST TO CCC:

## Hold IPI 'completely responsible' for the humanitarian crisis

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) urged the Commonwealth Casino Commission yesterday to work with the Legislature to make it a top priority to resolve what is being described as a "humanitarian crisis" besetting the stranded foreign workers of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

Speaking during the public comments portion of the CCC board meeting at the CCC conference room at Springs Plaza, Propst, who chairs the House Committee on Gaming, asked the CCC to hold IPI "completely responsible" for the situation of the stranded

guest workers, with whom he and other lawmakers have met and had extensive conversations with.

He said the workers want to go home, but they're reluctant because they haven't been paid what they are owed.

"This is heartbreaking. And look no further than previous employees of IPI who left in good faith last September and October, who believed that they would be paid, that the money would be wired," Propst said. He said he met with them before they left, they talked about it, and stayed in contact. What Propst has learned, though, is that not one of them has gotten paid yet.

"So these current workers who want to go home realize that, if they leave, they won't receive a penny. That's criminal. It's inhumane," he said.

The lawmaker said these are not slaves as they are workers

who provided the work, and were promised fair wages, and they deserve it.

Propst reiterated that the Turkish workers that they met a couple of days ago have work visas that are expiring on Jan. 30. He said the Turkish workers are extremely worried because if they are going to overstay and be deemed illegal, their chances of returning to any U.S. jurisdiction would become extremely difficult.

"Some of them are eating one meal a day just to...survive. We're better than this," said Propst, adding that the most beautiful thing that they are seeing right now is the community's outpouring of support for these workers.

"Unlike us as residents here, they don't have family that they can just move to—mom and dad or cousins or aunts and uncles. So they rely on the goodness, the love of this community," he said.

Ultimately, Propst said, the responsibility belongs to IPI. He said the fact that these workers have had no electricity and their water supply had been shut off is inhumane. "We cannot allow this in our Commonwealth. This is putting a stain on our reputation as being a loving and caring, compassionate people. I will not stand for it," he said.

Propst said IPI should take care of these workers, pay them what they are owed, and allow them to return to their homes to their loved ones. "Nothing is more important at this point. Because...we are the caretakers. And this is a crisis that we need to address as soon as possible," he said.

### RELATED NEWS

■ IPI's abandoned workers. **PAGE 9**



# Trump admin says no to Torres' request for match waiver

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Commonwealth government's request for a waiver on the local match required for COVID-19-related grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency has been denied.

In a letter to Gov. Ralph DLG Torres dated Jan. 15, 2021, Robert Fenton, who is currently performing the duties of the FEMA administrator, said the governor's request "is not warranted."

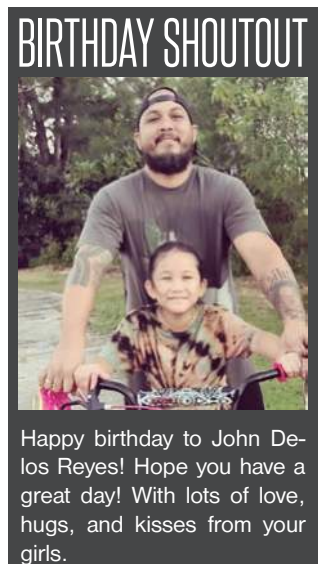
"Based on our review of all of the information available, it has been determined that the increased level of funding you have requested is not warranted. Therefore, I must inform you that your request for a cost share adjustment for this major disaster declaration is denied," wrote Fenton, who was previously the administrator for FEMA's Region IX and has been directly involved with the Commonwealth's recovery from the 2018 typhoons, as well as the coronavirus.

According to a press statement from the Office of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), Torres made his request in March of last year, but the Trump administration "waited until the last minute to refuse."

If it chooses to do so, the Commonwealth does have 30 days in which to appeal the decision to the incoming Biden administration. It was not immediately clear if the Torres-Palacios administration will appeal.

In his March 2020 letter asking for local cost share waiver, Torres said, "the additional burden of paying the non-federal shared cost when current locally-expended resources in response to COVID-19 have already exceeded the CNMI's available operating capital will result in curtailment of critical public services."

The governor specifically mentioned the possibility of defunding the police, and cutting funding for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, the hospital, the Judiciary and Legislature, and curtailing payment to for utility services to government facilities without help from the Trump administration. (Saipan Tribune)



Happy birthday to John De-los Reyes! Hope you have a great day! With lots of love, hugs, and kisses from your girls.

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## FOR FAILING TO SATISFY AML RULES

## IPI money sent back to China

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission

executive director Andrew Yeom said the money intended to cover six pay periods for employees of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI)

LLC was sent back to China for failing to satisfy Anti-Money Laundering rules.

Speaking at the CCC monthly meeting in the CCC conference room at Springs Plaza yesterday, Yeom disclosed that, according to IPI Finance manager Frances Mafnas, Bank of Saipan sent back to China the funds

intended to cover the six pay periods due to lack of documentation to fully satisfy AML requirements.

The executive director, however, disclosed that during his meeting with IPI Tuesday, he was shown a copy of funds transfer preview for over \$2 million that is anticipated to arrive on Saipan yesterday or today, Thursday. He said the amount is good enough to cover the six pay periods, Oct. 9, 2020 to Dec. 18, 2020.

Yeom said this funds' transfer that is coming from Hong Kong and is sent by IPI's holding company should be fine in terms of AML compliance.

He said IPI's employees' payroll delay pattern has continued, from pay period 21 to 28, or eight pay periods, starting all the way back to Oct. 9, 2020 and to Jan. 15, 2021.

"So basically, in 2020 there are six payroll payments that are missed," the executive director said.

## WITHOUT PAY FOR FOUR MONTHS NOW

## 'We live in the dark and fear'

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
kimberly\_bautista@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC employees claim that they have yet to receive their pay for the last four months despite numerous promises made by the company.

In an email to *Saipan Tribune*, an IPI employee who requested anonymity claims she and her colleagues have not been paid for the last four months. "We, IPI employees, have... no money for food. None of the employee housing has electricity. We lost health insurance because the company didn't pay. Some of us became illegal since IPI didn't repatriate us after layoff last year. We live in the dark and fear," she stated.

The U.S. Department of Labor has petitioned the U.S. District Court for the NMI to cite IPI for contempt for creating a "humanitarian crisis" in the CNMI by failing to abide by the terms of a previous consent judgment that required IPI to take care of its employees. U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona will hear the USDOL's petition today at 8:30am.

In its eight-page petition, the USDOL accused IPI executives of unlawfully requiring stranded employees to work without pay during a global pandemic and failing to meet the workers' basic necessities or provide for their

return to their home countries.

In his opposition of USDOL's petition, former IPI CEO Donald Browne explained that he only allowed employees to work when IPI was not paying them because he believed that they would be paid all of their back wages by Dec. 14,

"I believed that they would be paid by Christmas. I am still hopeful that all the wages owed to the employees, including to myself, will be paid shortly," Browne said.

Browne said there was no intention not to pay IPI employees.

Browne noted in his opposition that he has discussed the consent judgment with USDOL attorney Charles Song where he admitted that employees continued to work even when he posted multiple stop-work orders.

"I explained how several stop-work orders were initiated by myself on both the construction site and our casino operations support team. Management tolerated the employees working even though the company could not timely pay them because the expectation was that IPI would pay them soon. There was no intent not to pay them," Browne said.

However, Browne said, just hours after posting the last stop-work memo on Dec. 7, 2020, he was awakened from his sleep by a continuous knocking on the back door

of his home by an interpreter who was asking him to discuss the stop-work order.

"At the meeting was the chairlady of the board of directors of IPI's parent company, Cui Li Jie. She was with five other individuals. I was asked by them to please withdraw the stop-work order. The chairlady then promised me that all employees would be paid 100% of wages owed by Dec. 14. I understood that everyone desired that I withdraw the stop-work order and I was assured all wages would be paid by Dec. 14. I therefore relented and withdrew the stop-work order," he said.

Browne added that part of his reasoning for withdrawing the order was that the foreign workers of IPI could not be repatriated due to a lack of funds to pay for their plane tickets, and he was told that they would rather work than sit in the company-provided housing doing nothing.

Browne told the court that the payroll was not paid on Dec. 14, but more promises were made by Cui that payroll would be paid soon.

"I believe that on Dec. 24 IPI's bank received a wire transfer sufficient to cover all outstanding payroll. IPI then began issuing payroll checks. I understand and believe that the wire was ultimately rejected by the bank on Dec. 31, and sent back to its source. Many of the checks to the employees that had been issued then bounced. However, I am informed and believe that the money was back on Saipan on Jan. 5, 2020," he said.

## BIDEN

From Page 1

inheriting a confluence of crises arguably greater than any faced by his predecessors.

The very ceremony in which presidential power is transferred, a hallowed American democratic tradition, will serve as a jarring reminder of the challenges Biden faces: The inauguration unfolds at a U.S. Capitol battered by an insurrectionist siege

just two weeks ago, encircled by security forces evocative of those in a war zone, and devoid of crowds because of the threat of the coronavirus pandemic.

Stay home, Americans were exhorted, to prevent further spread of a surging virus that has claimed 400,000 American lives. Biden will look out over a capital city dotted with empty storefronts that attest to the pandemic's deep economic toll and where summer protests laid bare the nation's renewed reckon-

ing on racial justice.

He will not be applauded—or likely even acknowledged—by his predecessor.

Flouting tradition, Donald Trump planned to depart Washington on Wednesday morning ahead of the inauguration rather than accompany his successor to the Capitol. Trump, awaiting his second impeachment trial, stoked grievance among his supporters with the lie that Biden's win was illegitimate.

## CHECKS

From Page 1

vidual is entitled to a \$600 payment (\$1,200 for those filing a joint return) and \$600 per qualifying child.

DRT has immediately prioritized the configuration of the tax system to comply with the approved implementation plan and expects the first batch of payments to be processed as soon as next week. Valid direct deposit information provided to the Department of Finance in the first stimulus will be used in the second stimulus.

Finance will reopen the online stimulus portal within the next few days on the department website for taxpayers to submit direct deposit information to

receive their payment as soon as possible. Portal security features are in place to ensure taxpayer identity and avoid errors in bank information.

According to the approved plan, a 60-day deadline (March 21, 2021) is in place for DRT to release the stimulus payments, after which taxpayers can claim their payment as a recovery rebate credit on the 2020 1040-CM Income Tax Return.

"We appreciate the community's patience as the Department of Finance expeditiously processes this new round of stimulus payments for our community," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres yesterday. "We are grateful to the President and the U.S. Congress for enacting this important legislation and the U.S. Treasury for their approval of

our plan, so that we can get this much needed assistance for our people. I want to personally thank Secretary of Finance David DLG. Atalig, director of Revenue and Taxation Tracy B. Norita, and the whole Finance team for their hard work and leadership in initiating another smooth delivery of stimulus checks."

The second stimulus checks are provided pursuant to Section 272(c) of the *COVID-related Tax Relief Act of 2020* ("CRTRA"), U.S. Public Law 116-260, which President Donald J. Trump signed on Dec. 27, 2020.

The public is being urged to continue to follow updates from the Department of Finance and the Office of the Governor for the latest information. (PR)

## IPI

From Page 1

ready accepted the position, Yumul only said that negotiations are still ongoing.

Ray Yumul's brother, House of the Representatives floor leader Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (R-Saipan), was chairman of the House Committee on Gaming in the previous 21st Legislature.

Ray Yumul was a senator when he served as a running mate for Heinz S. Hofschneider, who ran as an independent candidate for governor during the 2014 general elections. The election led to a run-off contest, in which Eloy S. Inos and his running mate, Ralph DLG Torres, were elected as governor and lieutenant governor, respectively.

At the CCC board meeting yesterday, Yeom revealed he learned during his meeting with IPI Tuesday that IPI has reached a verbal agreement with Ray Yumul to be their CEO.

Yeom said they informed Yumul that he must apply for a casino key employee license immediately, so the CCC can approve or not his role as CEO.

When asked about this, CCC board chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero said they do not envision giving a license to any IPI employee, including a new CEO (Yumul), unless IPI pays its casino license fee. He pointed out that IPI is required by the casino regulations to pay the casino license fee.

IPI has so far been unable to pay the \$15.5 million annual casino license fee for 2020 that was due last Aug. 12, and the \$3.1 million annual regulatory fee that was due last Oct. 1.

Deleon Guerrero said the last CEO, Donald R. Browne, did sub-

mit an application to move from IPI's vice president for Security and Surveillance to CEO. Deleon Guerrero said Browne still has an active CKE license for the VP position and he submitted an application to be the CEO as required by the regulation.

"We actually completed our diligence review, but we could not proceed because the license fee that is required to be paid has not been paid by IPI," he said.

Deleon Guerrero also pointed out that they never did license him to be the CEO, but allowed him to speak before CCC meetings because he is a licensed IPI senior vice president of Security and Surveillance and the highest person representing IPI on island. He said they allowed Browne to speak for the purpose of making things from IPI move along.

The chairman said he understands that since Browne's resignation, IPI has been talking to Yumul about appointing him as the new CEO.

Deleon Guerrero remains non-committal about the subject, though, saying he has not heard from Yumul or IPI, and that he does not want to preempt the matter. But whoever IPI decides to appoint as a CEO, he or she must fully understand the laws surrounding CNMI gaming, Deleon Guerrero said.

"This new CEO must demand that IPI fully understands those duties and obligations," he said, adding that the CEO must understand casino regulations, the casino minimum internal control standards, and the casino license agreement.

"All of those have deliverables and you cannot have the CEO say, 'I'm sorry I'm new, I don't understand.' You are required to understand," Deleon Guerrero pointed out.

## ROTA

From Page 1

Phase 1A consists of health care workers, high-risk first responders, *man'amko* 65 years and older, and faith-based officials. On-site registration for Rota will be available on Jan. 23 from 10am to 3pm.

According to the 2016 Census, the CNMI Department of Commerce recorded 2,635 people on Rota, while Tinian has 3,056.

CHCC continued its rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine in the CNMI, this time bringing the campaign to Tinian, where 130 people were inoculated last Jan. 17 at the Tinian Health Center.

## Passengers flying to US

United Airlines released a notice last Jan. 19 that the United States will require a negative COVID-19 test or documentation of recovery

for all incoming international travelers, including U.S. citizens, starting Jan. 26. However, passengers from a U.S. territory flying to the U.S. don't need one.

United Airlines corporate communications office for Asia-Pacific stated that passengers who are from, or flying from, a U.S. territory or possession to a U.S. state are not required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test.

United recommends that individuals visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website for additional information: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>

"This requirement does not apply to children under 2 or those traveling entirely within the United States, including the 50 U.S. states, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands," said United Airlines.





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# Marine sanctuaries in American Samoa, Palau ink accord

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has signed a memorandum of understanding with Palau’s International Coral Reef Center on marine protected areas, including the establishment of a sister sanctuary arrangement between *Puipuga lautele o le Gataifale o Amerika Samoa*, the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, and the *Euotelel a Klingil a Debel Belau*, the Palau National Marine Sanctuary.

The agreement, which was signed in a virtual ceremony last Dec. 16, 2020, establishes a sister site partnership between the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa administered by NOAA and the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, which is administered through Palau’s International Coral Reef Center. It also expands opportunities for regional collaboration in marine protection by connecting the U.S. territory of American Samoa in Polynesia in the South Pacific, to the

Republic of Palau, a Pacific Island nation in Micronesia in the northwest Pacific. This new partnership is expected to include collaboration with the national marine sanctuaries in the State of Hawaii.

“We celebrate this important collaboration between NOAA and the Palau International Coral Reef Center in the advancement of marine protected areas that are critical to island cultures and people’s livelihood,” said U.S. Department of the Interior assistant secretary, Insular and Inter-

national Affairs, Douglas W. Domenech. “This agreement exemplifies the Trump administration’s ongoing support for the Pacific Islands and further strengthens the relationship between the United States and Palau.”

“This agreement will support bold actions to strengthen the conservation, management, and stewardship of Marine Protected Areas across the Pacific Islands Region that intersect with many of NOAA’s critical mission areas, for the benefit of local communities,

regional interests, and the nation,” said retired Navy Rear Adm. Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D., assistant secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and deputy NOAA administrator. “Our Indo-Pacific partnerships are a top priority for the Trump administration, and this agreement honors our shared history with the Republic of Palau.”

In September 2019, Domenech and Gallaudet were in Palau where they co-chaired the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual U.S. Coral Reef Task Force meeting. While in Palau, they also visited the Palau International Coral Reef Center and the Palau National Marine Sanctuary, which is when the idea first began to establish this partnership between the United States and Palau.

cluding nearby Vailulu’u Seamount. For more about the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, visit the website at <https://americansamoa.noaa.gov/>.

The Republic of Palau, one of three freely associated states in a special relationship with the United States under a Compact of Free Association, was the first country in the world to announce a shark sanctuary in 2009. In 2015, Palau President Tommy Remengesau Jr. further extended protections by signing a law that designated 80% of Palau’s exclusive economic zone, approximately 193,000 square miles, to be a national marine sanctuary, which went into effect on Jan. 1, 2020.

Palau is also part of the Micronesia Challenge wherein the leaders of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the U.S. territories of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands have committed to effectively conserve at least 30% of the near-shore marine resources and 20% of the terrestrial resources across Micronesia. Both American Samoa and Palau are members of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force where all U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands and stateside jurisdictions collaborate to protect coral reefs.

For more about this recently established partnership between the National Marine Sanctuaries of Palau and the United States, visit <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/dec20/tale-of-two-sanctuaries.html>. (PR)

The National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa comprises six protected areas, covering 13,581 square miles of nearshore coral reef and offshore open ocean waters across the Samoan archipelago and is now the largest national marine sanctuary in the National Marine Sanctuary System. Originally, though, it was the smallest: in 1986, NOAA established the sanctuary to protect and preserve the 0.25 square miles of coral reef ecosystem within Fagatele Bay. In 2012, NOAA expanded the sanctuary to include Fagalua and Fogama’a (the next bay east of Fagatele) on Tutuila Island, as well as areas at Aunu’u, Ta’u, and Swains islands, and a marine protected area at Rose Atoll (which was named Muliāva as it is known by the Manu’a residents) in-

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for 670organics

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. 670organics is proposing to renovate and occupy a portion of the 1st & 2nd floor of an existing 2-storey building structure measuring **23' (L) x 69' (W) x 11' (H)** for its Cannabis Farm Use. This use is classified as “Cannabis Farm” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. TR. 21732-18 in the village of San Vicente This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date:** February 3, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 03, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to [geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com](mailto:geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com). via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Amended Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Marianas Hemp Farms

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Marianas Hemp Farms is proposing to utilize **2 (Two) - 20 (L) x 40 (W)** Cargo Containers to construct a 1-storey building structure measuring **43'7" (L) x 208'10" (W)** for its Cannabis Farm Use. This use is classified as “Cannabis Farm” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 103 D 06 in the village of Gualo Rai. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date:** February 3, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 03, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to [geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com](mailto:geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com). via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for P&A Corporation dba Horseback Riding

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. P&A Corp. is proposing to utilize a vacant lot measuring **100' (L) x 293'9" (W)** for horseback riding. This use is classified as “Outdoor Amusement” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. E.A 116-3-4 in village of Afetna. This area is zoned as Mixed Commercial

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date:** February 3, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Saipan Cares for Animals, CNMI

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Saipan Cares for Animals, CNMI is proposing to utilize an existing 1-storey building structure measuring **35'1" (L) x 42 (W) x 9'11" (H)** for its Veterinary Clinic or Hospital Use and to also provide **29 (Twenty-Nine)** Dog Kennels on the property. This use is classified as “Veterinary Clinic or Hospital” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 038 I 54 in the village of As Gonno. This area is zoned as Rural.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date:** February 3, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 03, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to [geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com](mailto:geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com). via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman

## NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING for Vertical Aviation, LLC

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board Public Hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Vertical Aviation, LLC is proposing to construct an extension measuring **75' (L) x 57' (W) x 22' (H)** to an existing warehouse, and to also construct an additional warehouse measuring **95' (L) x 75' (W) x 22' (H)** for its Heliport or Helipad Use. This use is classified as “Helipad or Heliport” and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 117 D 11 & 117 D 13 in the village of Puerto Rico. This area is zoned as Industrial.

A public hearing will be held on:

**Date:** February 3, 2021  
**Time:** 5:00 pm  
**Place:** Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe, Saipan

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, February 03, 2021. Please send written comments via e-mail to [geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com](mailto:geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com). via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

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/s/ Tatiana Babauta, Chairwoman



When asked about the small bag that fell to the ground as he was getting out of the vehicle, Ada said it might have fallen from the seat as he got out. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

Pangelinan said that TTT aims to continue sharing the importance of protecting the environment. "TTT's efforts are to share the importance and how each of our youth may assist in their own way of protecting our environment, both land and sea. Community cleanups

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## The 46th president: Familiar problems, a new beginning

Wednesday at noon, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris take their respective oaths of office to become the nation's next president and vice president. Many Americans will surely breathe some collective sigh of relief. The last two months and especially the last two weeks have been the chaotic crescendo of a tumultuous presidency leaving in its wake—and this is a truly abbreviated list—Washington, D.C., in military lockdown with roadblocks and barricades and as many as 25,000 National Guard keeping order; the staggering death toll of the COVID-19 pandemic now projected to take a half-million U.S. lives by mid-February as the too-slow vaccine distribution program staggers on; and, perhaps most importantly, a strong sense that U.S. democracy, if not outright broken, has been dealt a serious blow by one selfish man who could not accept defeat.

"My fellow Americans, our long national nightmare is over." Those were the words Gerald Ford used at his inauguration when he succeeded Richard Nixon who resigned from office in 1974. Nearly 47 years later, the nightmare is demonstrably worse.

President Ford inherited a nation still reeling from the Watergate scandal and a disgraced Spiro Agnew, but without a storming of the U.S. Senate chambers, a legacy of constant misrepresentation and scheming, a historic pandemic and a level of political polarization unmatched in the modern era. President Donald Trump is leaving office like a drugged up rock star leaves a hotel room—in a complete mess and seemingly proud of it.

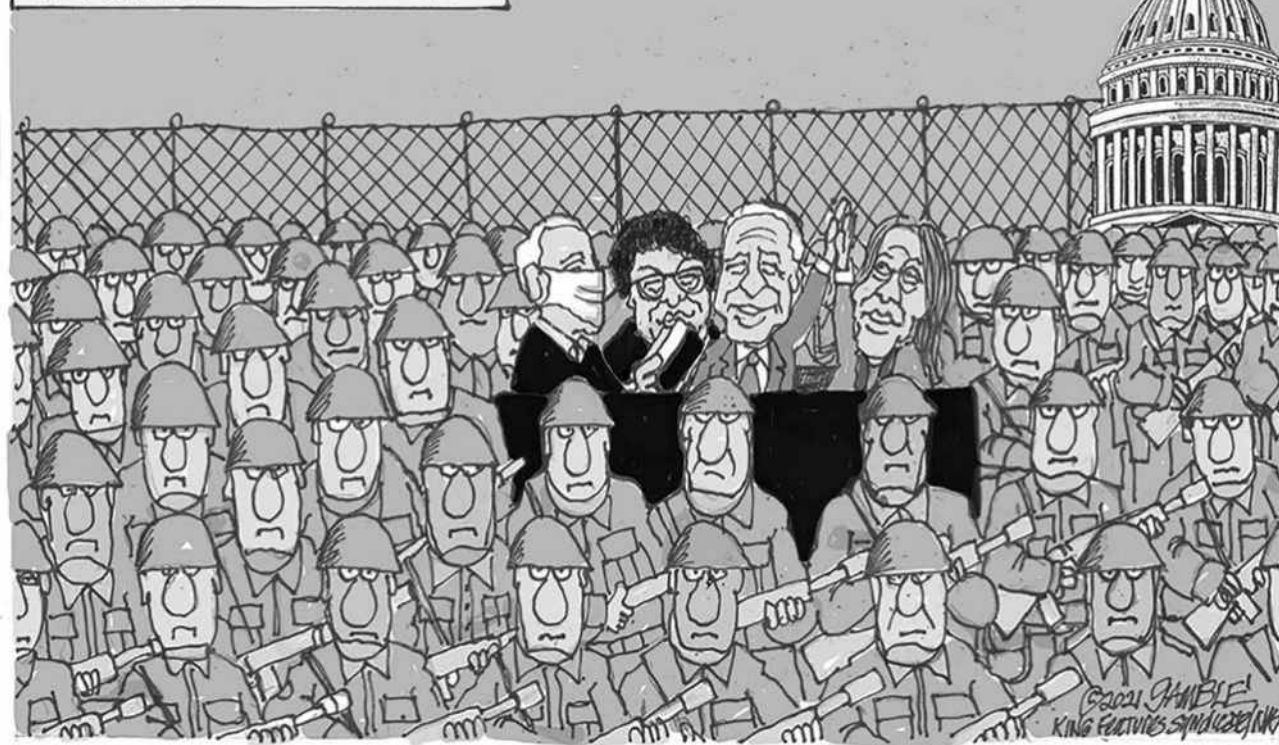
How fitting that the latest opinion surveys show Trump's approval rating the lowest of any president ever polled. That he apparently plans not to attend his successor's inauguration, the first such absence in a century and a half of presidential transitions, is disgraceful but somehow fitting in what it says about his moral character.

Under different circumstances, the country's desire for a replacement in the Oval Office would seem a political advantage. But, alas, the well of political opinion seems too poisoned for that. Biden has promised to make changes, not just in policy but in perspective: a president who governs all, not just his devout supporters; a president who prizes his appointees' expertise, not just their slavish devotion; a president willing to work with Congress, not just his political allies; a president who takes the COVID-19 pandemic seriously enough to wear a mask and redouble federal efforts to get vaccinations in the arms of more Americans, not just shift blame to others.

The 78-year-old Scranton, Pennsylvania, native has a comforting grandfatherly presence that the nation could surely use right now after four years of taunts and tantrums. But where some see a Jimmy Stewart figure, Trump supporters see Claude Rains, a doddering remnant of Washington insider elites. And to suggest the latter individuals—including, alas and despite it all, most Republicans in Congress—have a chip

See THE 46TH on Next Page

## INAUGURATION DAY!



## A chance

Donald Trump is not the first president to be hated by a large segment of the American people.

Far from it.

Andrew Jackson, Abraham Lincoln and many other presidents were hated by a large swath of the voting public when in office.

Franklin Roosevelt was well and truly hated by a great many, especially prior to World War II. He overcame with charm, and grace, and willpower.

And, he didn't get bogged down.

Ronald Reagan, whose youthful hero was Roosevelt, did the same. He was despised and demeaned by much of the chattering class and certainly all of the left. But he knew his own mind and had great instincts, one of the best of which was to not get enmeshed in petty and personal conflicts.

And, like FDR, he used humor and grace to overcome.

Richard Nixon was deeply reviled by many, many Americans. There was nothing he could do, even on single occasions—detente with Russia; the opening to China—to earn even grudging praise.

He did not overcome the hate. He hated back. And he sunk into a reservoir of personal darkness and paranoia. The Nixon haters said that they were vindicated when Nixon's presidency and Nixon himself fell apart: This is the guy, we knew he was all along, they said.

But others wondered if the hate had changed him. With fewer defeats and fewer enemies, might he have gotten to be a better man instead of a worse one?

One cannot help but wonder about Trump: If he had been given a chance, would he have gotten better instead of worse?

A chance. To his followers, the vast majority of whom are peaceful and law abiding, Trump was never given a chance to govern. The deep state and the major pillars of the political culture, including most of the press, went to work on sinking the Trump presidency from the day of his election.

Of course, as with Nixon, many Trump haters, and Never Trumpers (mostly solid Republicans) will say: We were right all along. The character flaws and ignorance of our system and its norms, written and unwritten, were there for all to see.

But the question now is whether Joe Biden will be given a chance.

Will the Republicans say, as Mitch McConnell did of Barack Obama: Let's focus on the undoing. Let's sabotage everything he does and make sure we win the midterms and hold this guy to one term.

Will they engage in payback? If Trump was illegitimate and impeachable even before Day 1 in office, why not the same for Biden?

By **KEITH C. BURRIS**

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Keith C. Burris is editor, vice president and editorial director of Block Newspapers.  
Email: kburris@post-gazette.com.



A chance, for the other guy, has always been a hard sell. Liberals were appalled when one of their icons, Sen. Eugene McCarthy, said in early 1969, "We have to give Nixon a chance, don't we?"

And they were livid when Kennedy egghead Pat Moynihan joined Nixon's administration. He was called many names, and only grudgingly and gradually let back into the good graces of the Democratic Party—because a lot of New Yorkers wanted to vote for him.

But, yes, I think Republicans and Trump supporters should give Joe Biden what their guy didn't get—a chance to govern; a chance to succeed.

They should do this because that's who we want to be as a people and polity and that's what we need right now.

And it does not mean Trumpers should be silenced or lose their free speech. But it does mean that some goodwill and cooperation on a few things (public health, infrastructure) would do the body politic great good.

I personally think that, in a weird and ironic way, Trump, by fomenting a violent riot and attack on Congress and the Capitol and so discrediting himself and his party, did Biden a favor. He gave traditional Republicans, like Rob Portman and Mitt Romney, and Pat Toomey, and Liz Cheney, and maybe even McConnell, a reason, and perhaps a path, for moving forward together—for the country.

I look at Joe Biden and see a person who, having lived through many defeats, personal and political, and many battles, and many personal attacks, became a better man. Adversity has worked on him in the opposite way that it worked on Nixon and Trump.

That's a blessing for the nation. We ought to take advantage of it.

Now President Biden will face another great series of trials and a great number of angry and blind adversaries chanting "resist."

Nixon had a famous and long enemies list. Trump has a list that is longer, and constantly amended. Joe Biden has no such list.

That, too, is a blessing.

We ought to give him a chance.



# IPI's abandoned workers

By **TINA SABLAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Christina-Marie E. "Tina" Sablan is a member of the CNMI House of Representatives representing Precinct 2 in the 22nd Legislature. She chairs the Health and Welfare Committee and is vice chair of the Gaming Committee.*



*"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."*

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

**M**y House colleagues and I spent Martin Luther King Jr. Day visiting with dozens of stranded Imperial Pacific International workers who are living in three company-owned housing facilities in Sadog Tasi (Vestcor), Garapan (Queen's), and the Chalan Laulau dormitories.

[House] Speaker Edmund Villagomez, Gaming [Committee] chair Ed Propst, Judiciary and Governmental Operations chair Celina Roberto Babauta, Federal and Foreign Affairs chair Vicente Camacho, Public Utilities chair Richard Lizama, Education chair Leila Staffler, Natural Resources chair Sheila Babauta, Commerce and Tourism chair Denita Yangetmai, and I (Health and Welfare chair) helped distribute donations of food, drinking water, and gift certificates for groceries and incidentals. Our deepest thanks to the many compassionate members of our community who responded to the call for help and contributed money and in-kind supplies for our neighbors in need.

We also spent time talking with workers at each of the sites, and listening to their worries and frustrations. They have been all but abandoned by IPI—no pay for months, many for nearly a year, with no word at all on when they will be able to return to their home countries. And they are living in deplorable conditions.

The residents at Vestcor and Queen's have had no power for weeks. When we visited on Monday afternoon, we found many sitting outside because it was so hot indoors. Queen's lacked running water as well, and workers there have been manually fetching water from a poorly maintained catchment tank located on the roof. "The water is dirty," they told us. "It's only for flushing toilets. Not for cooking." If they bathed in that water, they said, they get "itchy." There is a generator, but it only runs four hours a day, and it only powers half the building.

Up until several weeks ago, the Vestcor residents also had a generator providing limited power to their apartment units. Then the generator broke down. It has yet to be fixed. IPI management is now pressuring the residents to move to another housing facility that is in even worse condition than Vestcor—no utilities there either, and zero maintenance for over a year. "The bushes are so high," they said. "There's mold on the walls and beds." The other "option" IPI gave them was to move to another apartment complex where they would be responsible for their own utilities. "But how?" they asked. They have no money.

Sometime last week, the water stopped running at Vestcor too. IPI management told them a truck would come to deliver water to replenish the tank. But no truck came. After days of no water and having no ability to bathe, flush toilets, or clean

their homes, several IPI workers tracked their water pipes to the tank and discovered that "someone" had deliberately turned off the valve. They believe IPI management did it—to make conditions so unbearable that they would all just leave. The workers opened the valve and water began to flow again to their apartments.

This would not be the first time we have heard allegations of hostile acts by IPI management—at the Chalan Laulau dorms, we were told that generator power and running water were only provided to the units occupied by Taiwanese workers, and totally cut off to the units occupied by the Turkish workers. It was the Turkish workers who had staged protests and filed a labor lawsuit against the company. IPI eventually restored utilities to Chalan Laulau after being hauled into federal court and visited by casino commission investigators. The company's neglect continued in other ways, however. When we stopped by the dorms on Monday, we found trash overflowing in the bins outside, and the Turkish workers had been out of drinking water for nearly three days.

IPI's abandoned workers are skilled men and women who come from all over the world—Turkey, Taiwan, Malaysia, Italy, Australia, the Philippines. Many have worked overseas before, in many other countries throughout Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East. Many said this was the first time they have been so utterly forsaken by an employer. They wondered how this could happen on U.S. soil. They were shocked at how slow the government has been to help them. They came to the Marianas with the promise of decent jobs that would allow them to support their families. But now their families are sending them money.

Most workers said they just want to get paid what they are owed and return to their countries. Some have visas that expire at the end of the month. Some have already fallen out of legal status and worry about being deported and barred from reentry and future opportunities to work in the United States.

Again and again, their efforts to get answers from IPI have ended in frustration. The Human Resources office is closed, they said, and unresponsive. IPI "management" seems faceless, nameless, unreachable, wreaking havoc on their lives. "They lie to us all the time," the workers said. Many of their compatriots who left island months ago—some purchased their own tickets—still have not been paid as promised. The workers who remain here are fearful they will suffer the same fate.

Their stories are heartbreaking. The workers who remain are among the thousands who have experienced abuse, unpaid wages, and inhumane living conditions since the inception of this supposed multibillion-dollar casino project on Saipan.

The government has failed these people profoundly, and the wheels of justice turn too slowly. What is somewhat different now is that local legislators in the new leadership are paying attention to the plight of IPI's stranded workers. We are also examining the failures of governance that have allowed IPI to get away with flagrant violations of laws, regulations, and contractual obligations for so long.

Even now, IPI is allowed to continue construction in Garapan, though its workers and safety inspectors haven't been paid for months. Even now, IPI owes millions in taxes, license fees, regulatory fees, Community Benefit Fund obligations, and vendor payments, yet still retains its gaming license and many of its assets. Even now, the administration claims to be enforcing the law and holding IPI accountable—despite years of evidence to the contrary.

On this MLK Day, I am reflecting on how we can all be of service in some way, however small, to share compassion,

(properly memorializing the dead, for example) response to the pandemic on Day 1 would seem the right move. Sometimes, it takes a funeral, or perhaps a stalled vaccination rollout, to bring a family together.

Most Americans probably don't care all that much about inaugural balls or the other ceremonial trappings of Inauguration Day. Their absence won't make much difference. What many would truly, greatly, deeply appreciate is some return to normalcy, to rational behavior, to less shouting and more respectful conversation. And no white supremacists dressed in military gear and toting guns attacking D.C. or any state capital.

Decency is what Biden and Harris promised, and it's likely what Americans would appreciate most right now, Harris' historic achievement as the first woman to hold her post notwithstanding. And, of course, a quicker, safer end to the pandemic.

offer relief, and make life a little more bearable to others in need. I am grateful to live in our kind and generous island community. I am thankful for caring colleagues. And I am pondering the mountain of work that lies ahead to make the Northern Marianas a place where workers' rights are respected and defended, where the government moves quickly to protect the abused, where justice and the rule of law prevail.

## Food on my mind

### LITERARY NOOK

By **BOB COLDEEN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

*Bob Coldeen is a longtime TV journalist in the CNMI and is news director/reporter of KSPN 2.*



### Empanada Vs. Crispy Pata

A fierce debate rages on the tables of Saipan. Which is the superior dish? a plate of crispy pata, It's succulent skin making an excellent dinner plan, Or that popular pocket full of flavor – empanada?

We went to the island's judges to get the score. Whether they preferred the varieties of empanada Or was it something more meaty they adore Like the greasy pork bones of crispy pata?

The stage was set, the audience was elated. As the preparations were laid, one for crispy pata With a pig that was clearly decapitated While there was little to support the empanada.

The sun that day was hotter than ever before, As if the sun itself had stopped overhead to see. The crowd was getting antsy out there on the floor. In anticipation of the culinary winner to be.

An official carried out proudly a box of crispy pata. Only to be astounded when it was opened – it was empty! Another official entered with his box of empanada Except they were all gone too, the contest was a mockery!

Now we don't really know which is the better fare, Next time, make sure the staff eats before the contest. One suspicious kitchen worker had grease in his hair, Oh well, maybe he could tell us which one is the best.

### Chicken Kelaguen

Coming at you as a friend,  
Gotta say that every now and then  
I feel a rise in my gut, a yen  
For oh so tasty chicken kelaguen.  
It always makes me say, "Amen!"  
And it does that time and time again.  
Yup, talking about chicken kelaguen.  
I don't care if it's one, five or ten.  
Go put that on tv, show it on CNN.  
As long as I get my chicken kelaguen.

### Hey, What You Say, Eskebeche

Fried fish invited Green Beans to the scene  
Tired of hanging around, Green Beans agreed.

Ginger was smothered by Vinegar.  
Vinegar turned a whiter shade of pale.  
Timid Turmeric didn't say anything.  
No one knew Ginger's last name.

Eggplant arrived naked unexpectedly,  
Eagerly embraced, thrown in gingerly.

Upset with current events, the newfound  
Companions in the Pan stewed in their own juices  
Until the oven opened and they heard the words:

"Hey, What You Say, Eskebeche!"

## THE 46TH

From Page 8

of their collective shoulders may underestimate the boulder-size grudge sitting there.

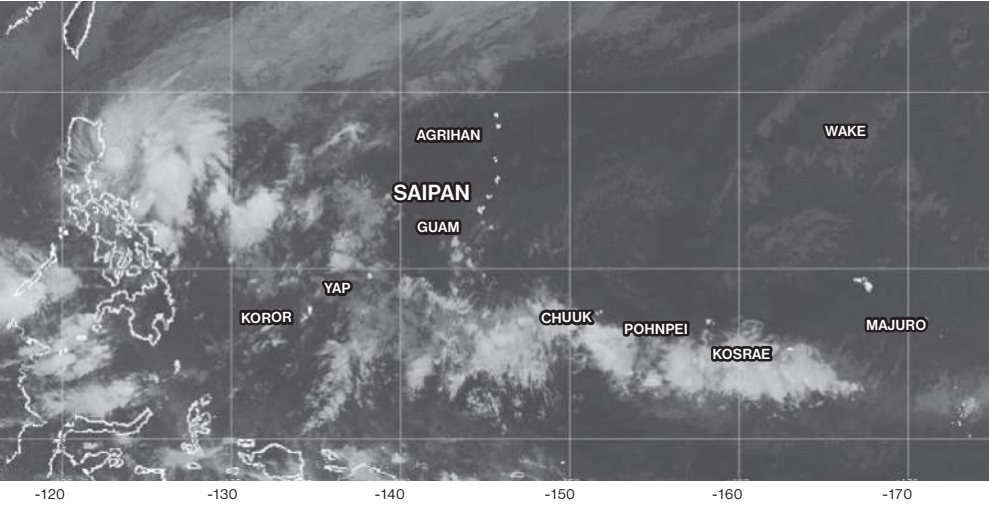
Of course, the day will be filled with outreach and gesture, with calls for unification, turning over a new leaf, rounding a corner. The Biden agenda is surely ambitious, featuring a stronger economic stimulus, renewed attention to climate change, a push for greater equality and fairness, a return to international coalition building to address global problems and a repeal of tax cuts for the rich. But he has also wisely spoken of making the COVID-19 pandemic the center of his administration's initial focus.

Surely, there will be a flurry of executive orders reversing some of the more heinous Trump executive actions, and Biden has promised to propose major legislation on immigration reform. But pushing for a better, swifter and more compassionate



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Breezy. Mostly cloudy with scattered showers in the morning, becoming partly cloudy with isolated showers around noon. East winds 15 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	77°	86°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



**PICTURE TIME: 8:27 AM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2021**  
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Guam weather radar shows almost no showers within the Marianas waters with isolated showers south of the Guam waters. Satellite shows the trade-wind disturbance approaching from the east. The leading edge is now at 148E with the trailing edge at 157E. The buoys reveal combined seas of 6 to 8 feet composed mainly of east trade-wind swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**  
During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°	
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	84° / 79°	
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:09 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:11 AM	12:15 PM
Friday	-	12:58 AM	12:51 PM
Saturday	-	1:46 AM	1:30 PM
Sunday	-	2:36 AM	2:13 PM
Monday	-	3:28 AM	3:00 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	68° / 60°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	46° / 21°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	70° / 62°	
Honolulu	Showers	80° / 71°	
London	Showers	47° / 35°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	71° / 52°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	84° / 76°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	87° / 60°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	75° / 64°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	43° / 32°	
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	53° / 41°	
Paris	Rain	49° / 41°	
Busan	Rain	54° / 44°	
Rome	Showers	58° / 52°	
Salem	Showers	59° / 52°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 48°	
Seoul	Rain	43° / 34°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	52° / 39°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	49° / 32°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:22 AM	High Tide	1.27	
7:02 AM	Low Tide	0.8	
1:29 PM	High Tide	1.79	
8:58 PM	Low Tide	0.51	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020			
DEPARTURES			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5
ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>			

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.			
FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 9, 2021			
SAIPAN TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun
ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sat
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri/Sun
ROTA TO GUAM			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



# Business

## ISLAND CAFÉ & RESTAURANT: Budget friendly and comfort combined



Island Cafe & Restaurant located along Middle Road across Mobil Gas Station opened in December with the vision to serve budget-friendly quality meals.

By **BEA CABRERA**  
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com  
CORRESPONDENT

Island Café & Restaurant located along Middle Road is filled with two things: Good food at budget-friendly prices and comfortable interior that will make

you want to stay there for hours. These are what owner Kyung Hee Park has envisioned for the community of Saipan—a café and restaurant where they can enjoy good food and relax from the daily grind. “There are many restaurants that people find expensive... they are nice places but it doesn’t have to be that way. This was the idea behind opening Island Café & Restaurant where family and friends don’t have to worry about money but only to enjoy their food while being in a safe and comfortable environ-

ment, like being in their own homes,” she said. “I want families to come here and have a good experience...I have been on Saipan for 25 years, I am now 50 years old and serving the community this way makes me happy,” she added. Island Café & Restaurant has an array of dishes—from breakfast meals, to inviting pasta dishes, to island favorites. They also have pastries that will go well with your coffee, tea, smoothies, and frappes. ““Breakfast All Day” ranges from \$5 to \$10, our pasta dishes range from \$12 to \$14 inclusive of soup... one of our specialties is our carbonara as we make the sauce from scratch and it comes with chicken, bacon, mushroom, and garlic to provide a rich and fragrant dish that many will love,” Park said. “One of our ‘Island Favorites’ dishes is Boneless Fried Chicken. We use chicken leg meat marinated in our special secret sauce that results in a juicy and delicious fried chicken.”

See BUDGET on Next Page

**ALLIED PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT CORP.**  
IS LOOKING FOR:  
**CIVIL ENGINEER (1)**  
AT LEAST MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE. GREEN CARD OR US CITIZEN PREFERRED.  
RATE: \$18/HR STARTING SALARY IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL SCOTT MALIN AT 788-3381 OR EMAIL Lillibaptista21@yahoo.com

**Matthew T. Gregory, Esq., F0205**  
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PMB 419 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950  
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Email Address: matt@gregoryfirm.com

*Attorney for Pacific Eco Laundry*

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**Pacific Eco Laundry, Inc.** )  
Plaintiffs, )  
v. )  
**Tae Ho Kim** )  
Defendant )

**SUMMONS**

**TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: TAE HO KIM**

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** and notified to file any Answer you wish to make to Verified Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within (21) days after service of this Summons upon you and to deliver or mail a copy of your Answer to Plaintiffs’ attorney, whose address is: Suite 603, Marianas Business Plaza, PMB 419, Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your Answer with the Clerk of the above-named Court Your Answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at the Commonwealth Superior Court located on Beach Road, Susupe, Saipan. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an Answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default will be taken against you for the relief requested in the attached Verified Complaint.

By order of this Court.

Dated this 25th day of March, 2020  
By: /s/ Clerk of Court  
Commonwealth Superior Court

## PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude. Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

**(1) F&B GUEST SERVICE HOST**  
High School/GED is required. Minimum of three (3) months’ work experience, preferably in hospitality. High School or equivalent. Requires ability to perform basic math skills such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Knowledge of appropriate table settings and F&B terminology. Previous food and beverage server and cash handling experience preferred. Bi-lingual in Korean-English or Chinese-English or Japanese-English is required due to the demographics of guest at the resort. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays. Must be able to multi task.

**(1) GUEST RELATIONS OFFICER**  
Associate Degree. Six months or more experience in Concierge or Customer Service in hotel or related industry. Proficient in languages of Korean-English or Chinese-English or Russian-English is required due to the demographic of visitors/tourist to Saipan. Must be able to work flexible shifts (days, nights and holidays).

**(1) ENGINEERING MANAGER**  
Associates Degree in Engineering and 48 months of work experienced in Engineering. Previous experienced in leadership role in resort/waterpark setting. Able to lift 15 lbs. bend, stretch and twist, sit or stand for long periods of time, climb multiple flights of stairs on daily basis and walk frequently. Must have previous experience in leadership role in resort/waterpark setting. Must be able to work under a flexible schedule work schedule including early morning hours, evenings, weekends, holidays and increment weather. Previous experience in management of maintenance/engineering specific to electrical, plumbing, HVAC system, ventilation system and carpentry.

**Applications must be received by 5:00pm on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.**  
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance or online at [www.picresorts/saipan/careers](http://www.picresorts/saipan/careers).  
Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.  
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.  
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950  
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962  
E-mail Address: [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com)  
Website: [www.cnmports.com](http://www.cnmports.com)

#### NOTICE OF BOARD COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that there will Board Committee Meetings on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, beginning 9:30 a.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan.

#### AGENDA

##### FINANCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (December 18, 2020)**
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Old Business: None.**
- IV. New Business:**
  - 1. FY 2021 Per Diem Rates
  - 2. Supplemental Budget Request: South Seaplane Ramp Paving & Drainage Project
  - 3. Supplemental Budget Request: Port of Saipan Diesel Fire Fighting Pump
  - 4. Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan Airport ARFF Roll Up Doors
  - 5. Supplemental Budget Request: Tinian Airport Parking Lot Expansion Project
  - 6. Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan Airport Hazmat Bunker and Sewer Connection
  - 7. Supplemental Budget Request: Tinian Marina Improvements Project
  - 8. Supplemental Budget Request and Sanctioning: Saipan Airport Loading Bridges Change Order No. 4
  - 9. Supplemental Budget Request and Sanctioning: Saipan Airport Loading Bridges CM Services Amendment No. 4
  - 10. Updated Financial Affairs Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)**
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- VII. Adjournment**

##### AIRPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (December 18, 2020)**
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Old Business:**
  - 1. Solar
  - 2. Mobil
  - 3. Power Plants 2 (Rota) and 3 (Saipan)
- IV. New:**
  - 1. Draft Land Management Regulations
  - 2. Resolution No. 2021-01: Airport Fees
  - 3. Updated Airport Facilities Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)**
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- VII. Adjournment**

##### PERSONNEL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (December 18, 2020)**
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Old Business:**
  - 1. Engineering Assistance
- IV. New:**
  - 1. Re-Structure of Rota Ports Police/ARFF
  - 2. Rota Seaport Maintenance
  - 3. Job Vacancy: Replacement Ports Police Officer I (Port of Saipan)
  - 4. Updated Personnel Affairs Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)**
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- VII. Adjournment**

##### SEAPORT FACILITIES COMMITTEE

- I. Call to Order, Roll Call, Adoption of Agenda, Adoption of Minutes (December 18, 2020)**
- II. Public Comments**
- III. Old Business:**
  - 1. Tinian Marine Stevedore
  - 2. Saipan Stevedore Lease
  - 3. Tinian Shipping
- IV. New Business:**
  - 1. Mayor of Rota’s Project Proposals: Public Restroom and Road Construction
  - 2. Resolution No. 2021-02: Rent abatement
  - 3. Updated Seaport Facilities Committee Report
- V. Executive Session (if needed)**
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements**
- VII. Adjournment**

Tune in online as we stream live on the Commonwealth Ports Authority’s Facebook page. Written testimony on the agenda items must be sent via email before the meeting to [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com). Attendees (in person) must wear a mask and practice social distancing.

Barrie C. Toves  
Airport Facilities Chair

Ramon A. Tebuteb  
Financial Affairs Chair

Pete P. Reyes  
Seaport Facilities Chair

Joseph M. Diaz  
Personnel Affairs Chair



## BUDGET

From Page 12



BEA CABRERA

Island Cafe & Restaurant will impress you with its clean and modern interiors that aims to give comfort and relaxation while you dine.

en... we also have all-time Korean favorites and soul food like bulgogi, tteokbokki and bibimbap... We offer 'croffles'

made with croissant dough that is fermented for three hours before baking, a very popular dessert in Korea," Park added.



BEA CABRERA

Living on Saipan half of her life makes Island Cafe & Restaurant owner Kyung Hee Park know what the community needs in terms of providing opportunity to enjoy dining out without hurting their wallets.

According to Park, aside from the main café and restaurant, they also have three

private rooms for company meetings and celebrations. "We cater to various celebrations like birthdays, bridal parties, baby showers, private meals, etc. and offer free decorations... the first room can seat 10 people, the second eight people, and the third, 14 to 16 people. We do not charge for room use as we only need minimum of four persons with food order of \$10 or more and they can stay for three hours," she said.

"We also have a photo booth where family and friends can have their photos taken to remember good memories... we

have parking in front and at the back... our goal is to make everyone happy, safe, and comfortable especially during this time of the pandemic... I find it a blessing whenever customers give a simple compliment about the delicious food we serve," she added.

Island Café & Restaurant is located across Mobil Gas Station along Middle Road. They are open Monday-Sunday from 8am to 9pm. For more information, call (670) 234-0190 and (670) 483-8825. Check them out on Facebook: Island Café & Restaurant and Instagram: @islandcafe670.

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**RFP NO.: RFP21-BECQ/DEQ-026**

**SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 08, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.**

**"PERFORMANCE OF ASTM PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENTS FOR BROWNFIELDS SITES ON SAIPAN & ROTA-CNMI FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**\*\*FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY\*\***

A **PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING** IS SCHEDULED FOR **JANUARY 26, 2021 AT 10:00 A.M., LOCAL TIME** IN THE 2ND FLOOR OF BECQ CONFERENCE ROOM (RM NO. 205). **ALL ATTENDEES ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK AND EXERCISE SOCIAL DISTANCING FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING.**

**ALL QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO **MR. ROBERT DELEON GUERRERO** AT [robertdiguerrero@becq.gov.mp](mailto:robertdiguerrero@becq.gov.mp) **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS JANUARY 28, 2021** ALL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED AFTER THE GIVEN DEADLINE WILL **NOT** BE ENTERTAINED. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PERSPECTIVE PROPOSERS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ ELI D. CABRERA**  
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**RFQ NO.: DPW/FHWA21-RFQ-015**

**SUBMISSION DATE: February 24, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"Construction Management Services for Route 33 (Beach Road) Improvements, Saipan"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DPW, TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, 2ND FLOOR, OLEAI COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **February 09, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Conference Room, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 16, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director** Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JAMES A. ADA**  
SECRETARY, DPW

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR,  
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

**CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: ITB21-DPW-030**

**SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 08, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) PORTABLE INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS - SAIPAN"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**\*\*FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY\*\***

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JAMES A. ADA**  
SECRETARY OF DPW

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY**

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**NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

**AGENDA**

- I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes (December 18, 2020)
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**
- III. **CORRESPONDENCES**
- IV. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  1. Financial Affairs Committee
  2. Airport Facilities Committee
  3. Seaport Facilities Committee
  4. Personnel Affairs Committee
- V. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
- VI. **OLD BUSINESS:**
  1. Engineering Assistance
  2. Tinian Shipping
- VII. **NEW BUSINESS:**
  1. Supplemental Budget Request: South Seaplane Ramp Paving & Drainage Project
  2. Supplemental Budget Request: Port of Saipan Diesel Fire Fighting Pump
  3. Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan Airport ARFF Roll Up Doors
  4. Supplemental Budget Request: Tinian Airport Parking Lot Expansion Project
  5. Supplemental Budget Request: Saipan Airport Hazmat Bunker and Sewer Connection
  6. Supplemental Budget Request: Tinian Marina Improvements Project
  7. Supplemental Budget Request & Sanctioning: Saipan Airport Loading Bridges Change Order No. 4
  8. Supplemental Budget Request and Sanctioning: Saipan Airport Loading Bridges CM Services Amendment No. 4
  9. Restructure of Rota Ports Police/ARFF
  10. Rota Seaport Maintenance
  11. Ports Police Officer I (Port of Saipan)
  12. Resolution No. 2021-01: Airport Fees
  13. Resolution No. 2021-02: Rent abatement (Seaport)
- VIII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
  - Legal Counsel Reports: Legal matters/Litigation
- IX. **MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS**
- X. **ADJOURNMENT**

*Tune in online as we stream live on the Commonwealth Ports Authority's Facebook page. Written testimony on the agenda items must be sent via email before the meeting to [cpa.admin@pticom.com](mailto:cpa.admin@pticom.com). Attendees (in person) must wear a mask and practice social distancing.*

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS  
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

January 19, 2021

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**ITB NO.: DPW21-ITB-013**

**SUBMISSION DATE: February 17, 2021 TIME: 9:30 A.M.**

**"Managaha Pier Rehabilitation Project, Saipan"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

The project package will be available on or after **January 14, 2021** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **February 2, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the **DPL Conference Room Joeten Dandan, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 11, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JAMES A. ADA**  
SECRETARY, DPW

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR,  
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICE

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
**CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID**  
**RFQ NO.: DPW/SWMD21-RFQ-011**

**SUBMISSION DATE: February 10, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.**

**"Request For Qualification Statements for the Project Management (Construction Management Services & Quality Assurance) for the Marpi Landfill Rehabilitation of Cell 2 and Construction of Cell 3"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE DPW, TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, 2ND FLOOR, OLEAI COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

**THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.**

There will be a **Mandatory Pre-Proposal Conference** for this project on **January 20, 2021**, 9:00 a.m. local time at the DPW Conference Room, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **January 28, 2021** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director** Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

**/S/ JAMES A. ADA**  
SECRETARY, DPW

**/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON**  
ACTING DIRECTOR,  
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES



# Nation

## BEFORE INAUGURATION POMP

# Biden marks COVID grief

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hours from inauguration, President-elect Joe Biden paused on what might have been his triumphal entrance to Washington Tuesday evening to mark instead the national tragedy of the coronavirus pandemic with a moment of collective grief for Americans lost.

His arrival coincided with the awful news that the U.S. death toll had surpassed 400,000 in the worst public health crisis in more than a century—a crisis Biden will now be charged with controlling.

“To heal we must remember,” the incoming president told the nation at a sunset ceremony at the Lincoln Memorial. Four hundred lights representing the pandemic’s victims were illuminated behind him around the monument’s Reflecting Pool.

“Between sundown and dusk, let us shine the lights into the darkness ... and remember all who we lost,” Biden said.

The sober moment on the eve of Biden’s inauguration—typically a celebratory time in Washington when the nation marks the democratic tradition of a peaceful transfer of power—was a measure of the enormity of loss for the nation.

During his brief remarks, Biden faced the larger-than-life statue of Abraham Lincoln, the Civil War president who served as more than 600,000

Americans died. As he turned to walk away at the conclusion of the vigil, he faced the black granite wall listing the 58,000-plus Americans who perished in Vietnam.

Biden was joined by Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, who spoke of the collective anguish of the nation, a not-so-subtle admonishment of outgoing President Donald Trump, who has spoken sparingly about the pandemic in recent months.

“For many months we have grieved by ourselves,” said Harris, who will make history as the first woman to serve as vice president when she’s sworn in. “Tonight, we grieve and begin healing together.”

Beyond the pandemic, Biden faces no shortage of problems when he takes the reins at the White House. The nation is also on its economic heels because of soaring unemployment, there is deep political division and immediate concern about more violence following the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Biden, an avid fan of Amtrak who took the train thousands of times between his home in Delaware and Washington during his decades in the Senate, had planned to take a train into Washington ahead of Wednesday’s Inauguration Day but scratched that plan in the aftermath of the Capitol riot.

He instead flew into Joint Base Andrews just outside the capital and then motorcaded into fortress D.C.—a city that’s been flooded by some 25,000 National Guard troops guarding a Capitol, White House and National Mall that are wrapped in a maze of barricades and tall fencing.

“These are dark times,” Biden told supporters in an emotional sendoff in Delaware. “But there’s always light.”

Biden, who ran for the presidency as a cool head who could get things done, plans to issue a series of executive orders on Day One—including reversing Trump’s effort to leave the Paris climate accord, canceling Trump’s travel ban on visitors from several predominantly Muslim countries, and extending pandemic-era limits on evictions and student loan payments.

Trump won’t be on hand as Biden is sworn in, the first outgoing president to entirely skip inaugural festivities since Andrew Johnson more than a century and a half ago.

The White House released a farewell video from Trump just as Biden landed at Joint Base Andrews. Trump, who has repeatedly and falsely claimed widespread fraud led to his election loss, extended “best wishes” to the incoming administration in his nearly 20-minute address but did not utter Biden’s name.

## Trump wishes new administration luck in farewell video

WASHINGTON (AP)—Trying to repair his tarnished legacy, President Donald Trump trumpeted his administration’s accomplishments and wished his successor luck in a farewell video as he spent his final full day in office preparing to issue a flurry of pardons in a near-deserted White House, surrounded by an extraordinary security presence outside.

“This week we inaugurate a new administration and pray for its success in keeping America safe and prosperous,” Trump said in the video “farewell address,” released by the White House less than 24 hours before President-elect Joe Biden’s inauguration. “We extend our best wishes. And we also want them to have luck—a very important word.”

Trump, who spent months trying to delegitimize Biden’s win with baseless allegations of mass voter fraud, repeatedly referenced the “next administration,” but declined to

utter Biden’s name. Many of Trump’s supporters continue to believe the election was stolen from him, even though a long list of judges, Republican state officials and even Trump’s own government have said there is no evidence to support that claim.

Trump was also expected to spend his final hours granting clemency to as many as 100 people, according to two people briefed on the plans. The list of pardons and commutations is expected to include names unfamiliar to the American public—regular people who have spent years languishing in prison—as well as politically connected friends and allies like those he’s pardoned in the past.

Trump in his address tried to cast his presidency as a triumph for everyday people as he highlighted what he sees as his top achievements, including efforts to normalize relations in the Middle East, the development of coronavirus

vaccinations and the creation of a new Space Force. And he tried to defend the endless controversies that have consumed the last four years as justified.

“As President, my top priority, my constant concern, has always been the best interests of American workers and American families,” he said. “I did not seek the easiest course; by far, it was actually the most difficult. I did not seek the path that would get the least criticism. I took on the tough battles, the hardest fights, the most difficult choices because that’s what you elected me to do.”

Trump also made clear that he has no plans of going quietly into the night, telling his supporters that, as he prepares “to hand power over to a new administration at noon on Wednesday, I want you to know that the movement we started is only just beginning. There’s never been anything like it.”

# World

# Kremlin brushes aside calls to release Navalny

MOSCOW (AP)—The Kremlin on Tuesday brushed aside calls from the West to release opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who was arrested upon his return to Russia from Germany following treatment for poisoning with a nerve agent. Moscow called his case “an absolutely internal matter.”

Navalny blames his poisoning on President Vladimir Putin’s government, which has denied it. The condemnations of his arrest and the calls from abroad for his release have added to the existing tensions between Russia and the West. Some European Union countries are suggesting more sanctions against Moscow.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that “we can’t and are not going to take these statements into account.”

“We are talking about a fact of noncompliance with

the Russian law by a citizen of Russia. This is an absolutely internal matter and we will not allow anyone to interfere in it and do not intend to listen to such statements,” Peskov said.

Navalny, 44, was detained Sunday evening at passport control at Moscow’s Sheremetyevo airport after arriving from Berlin, where he was treated following the poisoning in August. On Monday, he was ordered to pre-trial detention for 30 days during a court hearing that was hastily set up in a police precinct where Navalny was being held.

Russia’s prison service maintains that Navalny, Russia’s most prominent opposition figure and anti-corruption campaigner, violated the probation terms of his suspended sentence on a 2014 money-laundering conviction, which was deemed “arbitrary” by the European

Court of Human Rights.

Officials are seeking to send Navalny to prison to serve the 3 1/2-year suspended sentence.

He has interpreted the crackdown against him as a sign of Putin’s fear. Peskov dismissed suggestions that Putin was afraid of Navalny as “nonsense” and insisted that he had violated the law. The spokesman said the questions law enforcement had for Navalny “have nothing whatsoever to do with the Russian president.”

Navalny fell into a coma while aboard a domestic flight from Siberia to Moscow on Aug. 20 and was flown to a Berlin hospital two days later. Labs in Germany, France and Sweden, and tests by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, established that he was exposed to a Soviet-era Novichok nerve agent.



Eli D. Cabrera  
Administrator

## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

### OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management  
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950  
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315  
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Janice E. Castro  
Director, DCRM

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

### TINIAN DIAMOND CASINO, RESTAURANT, & SUITES BUILDINGS WITH ANONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM COASTAL PERMIT NO. TMS-2021-012

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Tinian Diamond Casino, Restaurant, and Suites Building with an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System (OWTS) in San Jose, Tinian.

The Bridge Investment Group, LLC is proposing to construct the Tinian Diamond Suite building on Lot No. 080 T 18, an Onsite Wastewater Treatment System on Lot No. 080 T 06, and to include the Tinian Diamond Casino operations within the Tinian Ferry Terminal building on Lot No. 016 T 01. The Tinian Diamond Casino and Ferry Terminal building will include a 64-seating restaurant with a kitchen facility, VIP restaurant and gaming center, security rooms, and two (2) VIP rooms at the Mezzanine level. The project is located at the Tinian Harbor in San Jose, Tinian.

The public hearing for this project is scheduled for **Thursday, February 4, 2021, at 5:00 PM.** Venue for this hearing will be announced at a later date. Due to the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and to ensure the health and safety of all, this public hearing will be conducted via video conferencing through Google Meet (meeting code: *bed-urrrw-ukr*).

Written comments can be submitted by mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, P.O. Box 501304, sent by fax to 664-8315, or emailed to [permitting@dcrm.gov.mp](mailto:permitting@dcrm.gov.mp). The project files are open and can be reviewed by scheduling an appointment with DCRM. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application records and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed projects. Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Tinian Diamond Casino, Restaurant, & Suite Buildings, and OWTS project.



# Environment

By IVA MAURIN  
iva\_maurin@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Still fresh from the turn of the year, what best way for us to start 2021 than to say goodbye to our bad habits and welcome better ones. All throughout last year, environment-wise, we have seen negatives countered by positives—volunteers cleaning up beaches, people planting more trees, shoppers using reusable bags to help lessen trash on the island.

To kick off this year, *Saipan Tribune* was able to sit down with reigning Miss Earth Northern Mariana Islands Maria Lael Terlaje, and this charming advocate for love and nature graciously shared with us these ten easy ways to a greener, better lifestyle.

1 Turn the lights off. Lights are an essential part of our lives. We use it at home, at the office or in school, or even outside. Terlaje stresses that turning off lights can reduce carbon emissions and harmful greenhouse gases that extremely contribute to

climate change. Turning off your lights, especially when not needed, can reduce wasted energy to lower the effects of climate change.

2 Recycle! One of the biggest environmental problems, not just here on island, but the rest of the world, is trash and reducing the amount of trash each of us generate is key. It's normally adults who recycle, but Terlaje shares that even children can help.

"Helping our environment can be a great part of family time. Family time is the base of learning and developing important qualities that render love for the environment. Although it may seem like the responsibility to reuse, reduce, and recycle may be the job of the parents, children can help around the house to assure that no plastic ends up in unnecessary areas."

3 Plant a tree. Trees provide so much, food and culture-wise, and it was so unfortunate that the islands lost a lot of trees from the recent disasters. Thankfully, there are sol-

id tree planting campaigns on island, including the #Plant500Marianas campaign she organized with Miss NMI Shannon Sasamoto, and CNMI First Lady Diann Torres, the goal of which is to reach 500 trees by the end of Jan. 31, 2021.

4 Use both sides of the paper. Speaking of trees, maximizing the use of paper helps save trees. For Terlaje, "home, school, and work should be the place to develop sustainable actions." The young beauty queen recommends that instead of printing several one-sided papers, clicking the double sided option on printers will help reduce paper consumption, stressing that millions of trees can be saved, and wastes could get lessened, if offices and schools could implement more efficient practices that could help our environment.

5 Eat less processed food. Processed foods contribute to the negative impacts of the environment in many ways, said Terlaje. "During the pro-

cess of packaging, intensive energy production occurs, letting our tons of harmful gases and carbon emissions into the environment. Packaging of processed foods also end up in our landfills, contributing to our plastic crisis. Both the beginning and end of consuming processed foods are detrimental to our environment."

6 Stop buying bottled water. Volunteers normally pick up plastic bottles during cleanups making CNMI a contributor to the 35 billion plastic bottles being thrown away by Americans every year. "Not only do water bottles fill up our landfills and end up in our oceans, they produce toxic contaminants that surround our air and water," Terlaje stressed, adding that during the manufacturing process, water bottles release a load of carbon dioxide into the environment, which also impacts our health. "Water bottles contribute to the peak of the plastic crisis, filling our land and sea like a disease. Reducing plastic consumption and using reusable

products can heavily benefit what water bottles do to our environment."

7 Drive less, walk more. For Terlaje, driving a motor vehicle has everything to do with contributing to climate change and global warming. "These vehicles emit tons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, polluting our air and shifting our planet's healthy temperature higher. This contributes to sea level rise, more hurricanes and typhoons, and death."

8 Turn off your computer at night. Another energy-saving tip from Miss Earth that almost all of us can relate to, especially students and those who work from home, is turning off computers. "Anything that produces energy releases toxins into our atmosphere. Even something as simple as shutting off your computer can contribute to a healthier environment," she said.

9 Use fluorescent bulbs. Just like turning the lights off when not needed, switching to more energy-efficient lighting helps

the environment. "Fluorescent bulbs are more efficient," Terlaje said. "They have a much stronger lifespan, leading to less waste in our landfills, and use less energy, reducing the release of carbon into our environment."

10 Bring reusable shopping bags. More and more stores are advocating for the use of reusable bags, the practice of which, more in the community are beginning to embrace. "Persuading customers to bring reusable bags will cut down plastic consumption. Incentives like a small discount or charging for a plastic bag will encourage responsible back usage and lessen the waste in our environment."

Remember, these are just 10 of the many things we can do to help the Earth. Perhaps, one other that is most important too is to help spread awareness and share these tips with your families and friends. The more of us who clean up our act, the better it is in the long run, not just for the Earth, but especially, for us too.

## 10 ways to help the

# Earth



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Miss Earth Northern Mariana Islands Maria Lael Terlaje encourages everyone in the CNMI to lead an even more environment-friendly lifestyle, and help the Earth, through these 10 simple practices that we all can do.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Recycle and help clean up trash. Miss Earth NMI Maria Lael Terlaje helping out in the beach cleanup hosted by the American Memorial Park last Monday in celebration of Martin Luther King Jr.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO  
Plant a tree! Have you joined the #Plant500Marianas campaign? Help Miss Earth NMI Maria Lael Terlaje, Miss NMI Shannon Sasamoto, and CNMI First Lady Diann Torres reach the goal of 500 trees planted all around the CNMI by the end of Jan. 31, 2021, where for every tree planted, a dollar goes to the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance.



# Life & Style

## Teen whom Biden befriended as fellow stutterer has book deal

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Brayden Harrington, the teenager whom President-elect Joe Biden befriended as a fellow stutterer—and will be part of a primetime inaugural special—has a book coming out this summer.

Brayden Harrington's picture story "Brayden Speaks Up" will be released Aug. 10, HarperCollins Children's Books announced Tuesday.

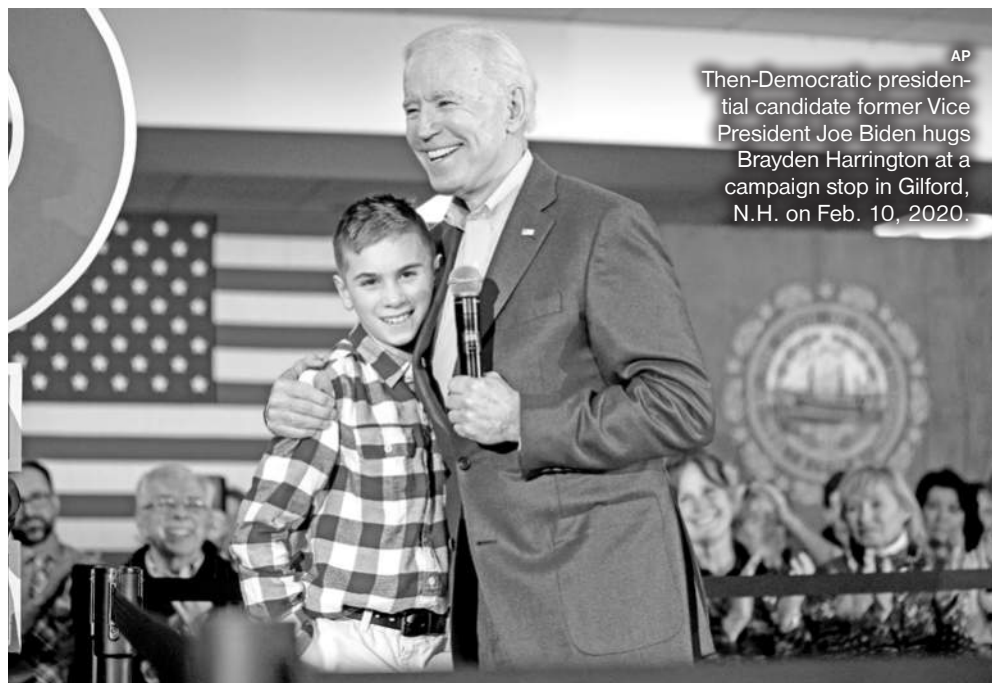
Harrington, 13, is a New Hampshire resident who met Biden in February while the

Democratic candidate was at a town hall event in Concord. They later spoke backstage and Harrington, who has praised Biden for giving him confidence, addressed the Democratic National Convention last August in a video that was viewed millions of times.

"When I learned I had the opportunity to speak at the Democratic National Convention, I was so nervous!" Harrington said in a statement. "What got me through and helped motivate me was knowing I could

be a voice for other children who stutter as well as anyone else who has faced challenges. I only hope my story provides a little extra support and motivation for those that need it."

Harrington, whose first book will be illustrated by Betty C. Tang, has a middle-grade novel scheduled for 2022. He will be among the featured guests Wednesday night during a 90 minute "Celebrating America" program that will help mark Biden's inauguration as president.



AP  
Then-Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden hugs Brayden Harrington at a campaign stop in Gilford, N.H. on Feb. 10, 2020.

## Rapper Bow Wow apologizes for attending packed Houston club

**HOUSTON (AP)**—Rapper Bow Wow apologized after Houston's mayor called him out for attending a crowded gathering at a city nightclub during a weekend packed with concerts as Texas continues to grapple with the coronavirus.



Moss

Mayor Sylvester Turner took to Twitter on Sunday to let the Ohio rapper, whose real name is Shad Gregory Moss, know that the city was monitoring a football watch party Bow Wow was expected to attend.

"Other bars/clubs that are operating as restaurants, beyond capacity and social distancing requirements, please expect visits," Turner tweeted.

Bow Wow also sounded off on Twitter to share his grievances, saying he wasn't paid to appear and that he was there for a

friend's birthday party. "Safe to say the mayor of Houston hates my guts. I can't believe I get the blame for a whole weekend," Bow Wow tweeted Monday morning. "I apologize if I did anything wrong. I love the city of Houston."

It was not a bow wow concert. I simply did one verse to like you. And went back to my section and simply put my mask BACK on.

But Turner made clear that he doesn't dislike Bow Wow and said the pandemic is not the time for concerts.

News outlets report Bow Wow was seen Friday night in club Cle Houston among a maskless crowd, though the rapper said on Twitter that he sang only one verse, the "went back to my section and simply put my mask BACK on."

## Harry Brant, son of supermodel Stephanie Seymour, dies at 24

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Harry Brant, a rising model and son of supermodel Stephanie Seymour and publisher Peter M. Brant, has died. He was 24.

The younger Brant died

Sunday of an accidental overdose, his family said in a statement to The New York Times, saying "his life was cut short by this devastating disease."

"He was a creative, loving

and powerful soul that brought light into so many people's hearts," the statement said. "He was truly a beautiful person inside and out."

Brant had appeared in Ital-

ian Vogue and in campaigns for the fashion house Balmain. He had previously released a unisex makeup line with his brother—Peter Brant, Jr.—for MAC cosmetics.

## From Gaga to Garth, Miranda to Moreno: Celebs join inaugural

Like so much this past year, the inaugural celebration will be like no other: pared down, distanced, much of it virtual. But for actor Christopher Jackson—the original George Washington in Broadway's "Hamilton"—performing in a virtual "ball" is a way of participating in an essential rite of American democracy.

"I'm glad to play a part in it," says Jackson, who will perform at the quadrennial ball for the Creative Coalition, a fundraiser for arts education and one of the more prominent unofficial events surrounding Joe Biden's inauguration. "It's a great honor, and I'm very grateful that we have allowed our system to

continue to work in the way it was intended."

Jackson—not to mention former co-star and "Hamilton" creator, Lin-Manuel Miranda—joins a slew of celebrities descending on Washington, virtually or in person, for entertainment surrounding the inauguration of Biden and Kamala

Harris. Although the festivities have been radically scaled down due to the raging coronavirus pandemic and security threats, a steady stream of A-list names have signed on, headlined by Lady Gaga singing the national anthem on the West Front of the Capitol, with Jennifer Lopez and Garth Brooks also performing.

## Screen Actors Guild may discipline, expel Donald Trump

**NEW YORK (AP)**—After leaving the White House, President Donald Trump may lose his SAG card, too.

The Screen Actors Guild said Tuesday that the SAG-AFTRA board voted "overwhelmingly" that there is probable cause that Trump

violated its guidelines for membership. The charges, the guild said, are for Trump's role in the Capitol riot on January 6, "and in sustaining a reckless campaign of misinformation aimed at discrediting and ultimately threatening the safety of journalists,

many of whom are SAG-AFTRA members."

If found guilty by a disciplinary committee, Trump faces expulsion.

Trump has been a SAG member since 1989. His credits include "The Apprentice," "Saturday Night Live" and

many cameos in films and TV series including "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York," "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" and "Sex in the City."

The SAG board acted in response to a request from Gabrielle Carteris, the guild's president.

## Colleague refuses payment for help above and beyond

**DEAR ABBY:** My colleagues and I were recently notified that our company is closing next month. My work partner and I have collaborated closely for four years, and he's an expert at the software I need to know to get a job in my field. When I asked if he would give me a couple of lessons via Zoom, I was thinking it'd be about a three-hour commitment for him. But he was enthusiastic and designed a 20-plus-hour curriculum for me.

He keeps saying he doesn't want me to pay him, but I want to find an appropriate way to express my gratitude. What would be an appropriate amount to compensate him without getting too steep (which is why I didn't do the full-price software training in the first place. It was \$2K)? Thanks for any advice.

THANKFUL IN ILLINOIS

**DEAR THANKFUL:** If you know of any interests, hobbies, a sport, etc. your partner has outside the workplace, consider going online to see if you can find something connected to that activity he would enjoy that's within your budget.

**DEAR ABBY:** Every year on Facebook's "National Daughter's Day," my daughter's mother-in-law professes her love, respect and admiration for her own daughter, but never acknowledges her daughter-in-law (my daughter). Yet on "National Son's Day," she posts glowing tributes not only to her sons, but

also to her son-in-law.

We all live within miles of each other, and this recurring slight makes it difficult to act like everything is fine when, in truth, this is hurtful to my daughter and to our family. Should I address this issue with the mother-in-law or continue to bite my tongue?

DISMISSED IN TEXAS

**DEAR DISMISSED:** If you are smart, rather than address the issue with your daughter's mother-in-law, who either has the emotional intelligence of an oyster or really doesn't care for your daughter, mention it to your son-in-law and point out to him that being slighted is hurtful. There may be a better result if HE brings it up to his mother.

**DEAR ABBY:** I battle with a double chin, and I loathe it. My chin hides itself only if I am under 126 pounds. Anything over that and it's there. I'm not overweight, but my double chin makes me feel that way.

I have read that dermal fillers in the chin can discreetly get rid of this issue. The problem? My husband. He's against any type of plastic surgery. He doesn't like my double chin either, but he wants me to only get rid of it "naturally." Normally I would agree. I have been exercising (running four times a week) without success. I don't feel comfortable looking this way.

I think I deserve this shortcut. Should I get the filler without

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



my husband's blessing, or should I continue this struggle?

TAKING IT ON THE CHIN

**DEAR TAKING IT:** You are an adult, and it's your body. You do not need permission to do something that will help you feel better about yourself. If your husband is against any type of plastic surgery (and by the way, fillers do not qualify as plastic surgery), HE should forgo having it when his frown lines begin to look like tractor furrows and he develops a wattle.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.



# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

## Garfield®

By Jim Davis

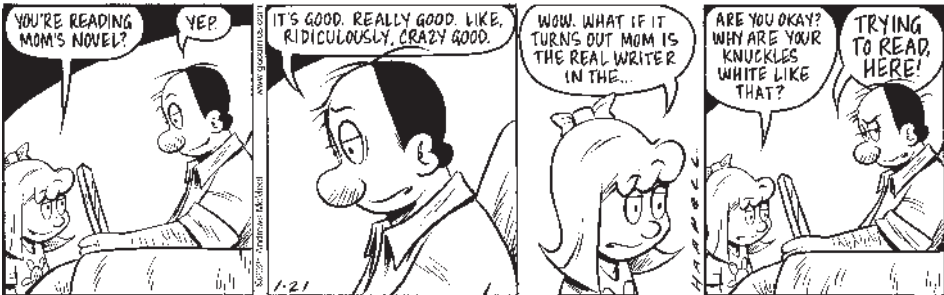


## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Star in Lyra

5 Portnoy's creator

9 Watch chain

12 On the rocks

13 La Scala solo

14 Chopper

15 Chilly stretch

17 Stephen of "Still Crazy"

18 Small maps

19 Rep concerning

21 Underneath

24 Pot covers

27 "Awe-some, dude!"

28 Rosary component

31 "Evil Woman" gp.

32 Finale

33 Fib

**DOWN**

1 "Veni, vidi —"

2 Nobel Prize subj.

3 Hair goops

4 Venomous snakes

5 Knocks

6 Raw mineral

7 Up to

8 Sanctioned by

9 "So long!"

10 Plow pullers

11 Exhausted

16 Sault — Marie

20 Sailor

22 Marriage notices

23 Vortex

24 Table support

25 Unwell

26 Entrance ringer

27 Peruse

29 Goal

30 —

35 Short do

37 Ice skating figures

39 Supermarket section

40 Bro's kin

41 Activist Parks

42 Military no-show

43 A/C measures

44 Squad

45 Shoppe description

46 Differently

49 Chic no more

50 Ga. neighbor

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

G	A	I	T	H	E	R	S	P	A	M
O	M	N	I	A	I	A	P	I	N	F
R	A	R	R	I	S	R	A	N	A	
S	T	E	F	S	P	I	A	N	A	F
S	I	P	C	O	C	B	E	O	P	
S	C	A	T	N	A	M	D	A	D	E
R	J	S	E	S	B	I	C	R	E	P
E	L	A	P	S	E	A	R	O	M	A
R	O	B	O	B	A	R	E	X	A	M
S	L	A	T	O	L	E	E	D	E	N
E	A	R	S	N	E	T	S	E	N	S

Yesterday's answer 1-21

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Boo-boo Stewart, 27; Ashton Eaton, 33; Emma Bunton, 45; Geena Davis, 65.

**Happy Birthday:** Be secretive until you have figured out exactly what you want to do. Sharing too much information will lead to interference. Time is on your side, so don't let anyone talk you into something that causes uncertainty or regret. Hone your skills, choose opportunities that address your needs and put the past behind you. Your numbers are 4, 19, 21, 27, 34, 46, 48.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Reach out to those you have a good rapport with, and you'll get the help you need. Take advantage of a last-minute change by having a backup plan in place. Use your intelligence and insight to overcome adversity. \*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Keep personal matters to yourself. Separate work and personal issues to avoid giving someone the upper hand. Focus more on individual gains, growth and living a healthy lifestyle. Love and romance will ease stress and improve your day. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Stick to the truth. You don't have to sugarcoat or exaggerate to get what you want. Intelligence will be all you need to persuade others to see things your way. Don't leave your money or possessions out in the open. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Avoid joint ventures, investments or letting someone talk you into something risky or costly. Concentrate on work and doing an extraordinary

job. The payback for being innovative and attentive will pay off. Romance is in the stars. \*\*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Take one step at a time. Consider every angle before you commit to anything. Uncertainty will mount as the day unfolds, and you'll be glad you opted not to react too quickly. Put your emotions aside, and choose to be practical. \*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Express your feelings, and it will help you make better decisions regarding social events and what you decide to pursue emotionally and physically. Reach out to someone you love, and make lifestyle adjustments that favor spending more time together. Romance is favored. \*\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Concentrate on letting go of the past and moving forward with greater optimism and less stress. Don't let emotions interfere with making practical decisions regarding your finances, health or contractual matters. Do what's best for you. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Question everyone and everything. You want to be positive you are making the right decisions before you proceed. Life-changing opportunities require dedication and discipline, but in the end, they will offer unique rewards. Extraordinary relationships and personal growth are favored. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Turn something you enjoy doing into a lucrative endeavor. Put a value on the services and skills you have to offer instead of letting others take advantage of you. Speak from the heart, and be passionate about your pursuits. \*\*\*

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Let your intuition lead the way. Focus on what you know and do best. Implement a change that makes your living space more conducive to achieving your goals. Don't let anyone interfere with your plans. Romance will enhance a meaningful relationship. \*\*\*\*\*

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Rethink your strategy, and consider your motives. A change someone makes will give you a reason to reconsider your relationship. Don't let uncertainty take over; follow your heart, and do what's best for you. You will require discipline. \*\*

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Offer help for the right reason. Ulterior motives will lead to trouble. Be open about your expectations; rewards for your honesty will come your way. A trendy new image will give you the boost you need to reconnect with someone you miss. \*\*\*\*

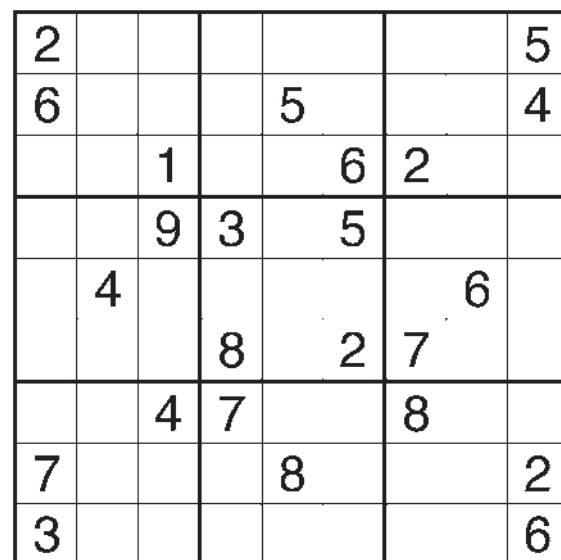
**Birthday Baby:** You are unpredictable, sensitive and passionate. You are smart and trendy.

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## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



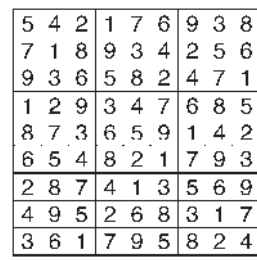
Difficulty Level ★★★

1/21

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

"ALEXA" COMMANDS

Solution: 8 letters

T P S B U H R R R A S E K O J  
S E E S W E N I D S T U O C S  
S E L R Z L A D S A M U S I C  
G P G E C P R G D A R E D R O  
N U E A V E N C A N C E L E N  
I R B U S I N E S S E S M E N  
F O R S T S S T C W B P Z A E  
E H T A H C E I M E O O T I C  
I A R D D U E M O R O S R T  
R S A P A N T R Y N K T I E S  
B E L N C M E G S D S S L H T  
R R A E H U B L U E T O O T H  
O O R A C T O R A L L A C A G  
O C M E D E A L S C P R K E I  
D S N O I T A M R O F N I W L

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Actor, Address, Alarm, Answer, Bluetooth, Books, Briefings, Businesses, Calendar, Call, Camera, Cancel, Chat, Connect, Date, Deals, Door, Freezer, Help, Hubs, Information, Jokes, Lights, List, Lock, Math, Messages, Music, News, Order, Pair, Pantry, Percent, Plug, Purchase, Ratings, Read, Science, Scores, Scouts, Snooze, Sports, Television, Unmute, Weather

Yesterday's Answer: Water

The NEW Treasury 41 can be purchased online at [www.WonderWordBooks.com](http://www.WonderWordBooks.com), or call 1-800-642-6430.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Mitchell powers Jazz to 6th straight win

**SALT LAKE CITY** (AP)—Donovan Mitchell had 28 points and seven rebounds, and the Utah Jazz beat the New Orleans Pelicans

118-102 on Tuesday night for their sixth straight victory. Mitchell also made four of Utah's 21 3-pointers. Jordan Clarkson added 18 points, six rebounds, and six assists, and reserve Joe Ingles scored 15 points. Rudy Gobert had 13 points, 18 rebounds, and three blocks.

Zion Williamson scored 32 points for New Orleans, and Brandon Ingram had 15. The Pelicans trailed the entire second half after allowing the Jazz to make more than 20 3-pointers for the fourth time in six games.

Williamson gave the Pelicans an early lift in the first half. He converted all five of his first-quarter field goal attempts and capped a 7-0 run with a layup that put New Orleans up 20-18.

Mitchell matched his efficiency. He powered the Jazz offense in the first quarter, scoring 15 points while going 6 for 7 from the field. He converted a three-point play to punctuate an 11-2 run that gave Utah a 29-22 lead.

Mitchell also had a key stretch in the second quarter. He scored and threw a one-handed wraparound pass as he was falling out of bounds out



Utah Jazz guard Donovan Mitchell (45) shoots against New Orleans Pelicans guard Josh Hart (3) during the first half of an NBA game Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021, in Salt Lake City.

to Bojan Bogdanovic to set up another basket. The two plays bumped Utah back in front 55-49 before halftime.

The Jazz carried that momentum into the third quarter. Utah made 3-pointers on four straight possessions to extend its lead to 73-55.

Utah made eight total 3-pointers during the quarter. Clarkson and Ingles scored the final two on back-to-back possessions to push the Jazz lead to 91-69 heading into the fourth quarter.

Lonzo Ball returned after a three-game absence due to a

knee injury. Ball finished with seven points, four assists, and three steals. Williamson had back-to-back 30-point games for the first time in his NBA career. New Orleans scored 22 points off 14 Jazz turnovers.

## Nuggets 119, Thunder 101

Nikola Jokic was split in his opinion over which play stood out more.

The candidates: Facundo Campazzo's backward, between-the-legs pass to Monte Morris for a layup, and Bol Bol turning in a coast-to-coast

dribbling clinic, punctuated by the 7-foot-2 center's slam.

"Both are nice," the Nuggets big man said.

Fair answer. Oklahoma City had no answers for him.

Jokic had 27 points and 12 rebounds before calling it an early night as Denver routed the Thunder.

Clean shaven and sporting a new buzz cut, Jokic also had six assists before taking a seat on the bench with the other starters for the fourth quarter.

"He doesn't get a lot of credit as he should, maybe because he (isn't) flashy with the dunks,"

said Morris, who had 15 points. "He's got a touch I've never really seen. He's definitely a future Hall of Famer."

The Thunder tried everything to stop Jokic, but he was a handful for Isaiah Roby, who was giving up four inches and 50 pounds.

"Obviously, it's a tough cover right now. But I don't think it's a long-term tough cover for him," Thunder coach Mark Daigneault said of Roby. "This is a matchup that he should be able to handle long-term. We see him as that kind of player."

Paul Millsap had 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Nuggets, who have won six straight over the Thunder at home.

Luguentz Dort kept the Thunder close early by scoring 15 of his 20 points in the first half.

The Nuggets began to pull away in the second quarter and stretched it in the third before the Thunder made a little run to make things interesting.

"I told our guys, 'This is who we've been all season long. We get up. We build a lead. We get lackadaisical and we give the game back. Let's not do that again,'" Nuggets coach Michael Malone recounted.

They responded by building it back up to 26 and allowing Jokic and the rest of the starters to sit out the final quarter.

It was a much-needed confidence boost for the struggling Nuggets (7-7), who advanced to the Western Conference finals inside the NBA bubble last season. So much so that former Nuggets coach George Karl posted on social media leading up to the game: "It's early in the season to say this but the Nuggets game against the Thunder is a 'must win' for Denver."

"This definitely was a must-win," Morris said.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	8	4	.667	0.0
Philadelphia	9	5	.643	0.0
Brooklyn	9	6	.600	0.5
New York	7	8	.467	2.5
Toronto	5	8	.385	3.5
Central				
Milwaukee	9	5	.643	0.0
Indiana	8	5	.615	0.5
Cleveland	6	7	.462	2.5
Chicago	6	8	.429	3.0
Detroit	3	10	.231	5.5
Southeast				
Atlanta	6	7	.462	0.0
Orlando	6	8	.429	0.5
Charlotte	6	8	.429	0.5
Miami	5	7	.417	0.5
Washington	3	8	.273	2.0
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Pacific				
LA Lakers	11	4	.733	0.0
LA Clippers	10	4	.714	0.5
Phoenix	7	5	.583	2.5
Golden State	7	6	.538	3.0
Sacramento	5	9	.357	5.5
Southwest				
San Antonio	8	6	.571	0.0
Memphis	7	6	.538	0.5
Dallas	6	7	.462	1.5
New Orleans	5	8	.385	2.5
Houston	4	8	.333	3.0
Northwest				
Utah	10	4	.714	0.0
Portland	8	6	.571	2
Denver	7	7	.500	3.0
Oklahoma City	6	7	.500	3.5
Minnesota	3	9	.250	5.5

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Kyrie rejoins Nets, says he 'just needed a pause'

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Kyrie Irving rested his chin on his arms folded in front of him, looking worn down by his fight to balance his commitment to his team and his community.

He wants to help the Nets. He also wants to support the underserved.

"If you don't create that distinction, then it's easy to feel the weight of the world while you're going out there and playing," Irving said Tuesday.

Such a weight, the Brooklyn star said, that he "just needed a pause."

Irving returned to practice with the team and could play Wednesday in Cleveland. He has missed the last seven games—five while away during a leave of absence and two more while regaining his conditioning after he was eligible to return.

He didn't give a clear reason for his absence while speaking during a Zoom interview, telling reporters he had a lot of personal things going on.

"I'm a hometown kid so things hit a little different when family and personal stuff are going on, and that's up to me to handle that as a man," Irving said. "But yeah, I just take full accountability for my absence with the guys and just had a conversation with each one of them and we move on."

He apologized to Nets fans, saying he understood their feelings because he grew up one of them in New Jersey, when the team was based there. But Irving, who has donated millions to causes important to him and confirmed working with a group that bought a home for George Floyd's family, also made clear that his decisions are based on more than just basketball.

"I want to make changes daily," Irving said. "There are so many oppressed communities, so many things going on that are just bigger than a ball going in the rim."

Irving's absence began Jan. 7, the day after the deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol. He was

fined \$50,000 for violating the NBA's health and safety protocols after he was seen in a video posted on social media during his absence at an indoor family party while not wearing a mask. He also lost nearly \$900,000 of his \$33.5 million salary because two of the games he missed were during a mandated quarantine period.

Irving said he was happy to be back with the team, which acquired James Harden during his absence. The Nets have won both games since the trade.

"We got some great pieces and we just move on, and I let my actions and my game speak for itself like I planned on doing," Irving said. "Just needed a pause."

It should end in Cleveland, where Irving's NBA career began and where he hasn't played since opening night of the 2017-18 season, his first with Boston after being traded by the Cavaliers.

Irving said there's no question of his love and commit-

ment to basketball. He may be able to direct more attention to it by sharing more responsibilities for the off-court changes he seeks.

"I'm just being honest here," Irving said. "It's been a lot to balance and now I called for help and now I have just so many mentors and so many people reaching out and just taking things off my plate that were never mine in the first place."

## Equity in teams

NBA players want to be equity partners in the league and will likely pursue that option during the next round of labor negotiations, according to Michele Roberts, executive director of the National Basketball Players Association.

Roberts said that while players share in the passion for the game, and in the responsibility of growing the NBA's multi-billion-dollar enterprise, "what we don't share is having an equity stake in the teams."

"We've got a collective bargaining agreement that says we can't [own stakes], and hopefully down the road we'll make some changes," she said. "The players will be the last to suggest that we want to see the game's value, or teams' values, in any way diminish, but it sure would be nice to be able to go to the party."

That would require negotiation between the league and the players. The current labor accord, signed in 2016, runs through the 2023-24 season.

NBA team valuations have skyrocketed in the last half decade. In 2014, the Milwaukee Bucks sold for a league-record \$550 million. The team is now worth \$1.86 billion, according to Sportico's latest valuations. The league currently has three teams worth more than \$5 billion; the NFL has just one.

Players do share in the growth of the league in some ways. The current labor accord gives players about 50% of league revenue.



# Final Four QBs share affinity for deep throws



**KANSAS CITY (AP)—**Just in case it matters, Chad Henne isn't

nearly as likely as Patrick Mahomes to chuck the ball deep down the field for the Kansas City Chiefs.

The sample size is closer than people might think as well.

If Mahomes can't start the AFC championship game against Buffalo because of concussion protocols, Kansas City will be the only team in the final four without a quarterback tending to look downfield for throws.

And if Mahomes is cleared to play Sunday against Josh Allen and the Bills, well, it might be a good week to put defensive backs through plenty of those backpedal-turn-run drills.

"I think I have to focus on the fundamentals for myself," Mahomes said before the 22-17 divisional-round win over Cleveland last weekend.

"The good thing about this team is we have a lot of great playmakers that can make plays happen in space and so if I'm getting the ball out of my hands and getting it to them, if that's holding it or stretching plays out and throwing deep passes or getting it out quick, whatever way in order to have success on the field, I'll try to do that."

Tom Brady's first season with Tampa Bay, after 20 years in New England, marked the highest per-game average of the six-time Super Bowl champion's career for



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) throws a pass in front of Cleveland Browns defensive tackle Sheldon Richardson, right, during the second half of an NFL divisional round game, Sunday, Jan. 17, 2021, in Kansas City. AP

throws of at least 20 yards at 5.9 in the regular season. That number led the NFL.

The opponent for the three-time MVP Brady in the NFC championship game—2020 MVP contender Aaron Rodgers of Green Bay—is consistently among the league leaders in deep throws and ranked fifth this season.

Henne's career rate of deep throws per game is 2.7 compared to 5.1 for Mahomes. Although it's been seven years

since the 35-year-old Henne started regularly in the NFL, the journeyman has similar career numbers in completions and yards to last season's Super Bowl MVP.

With an extraordinary combination of mobility and arm strength, the 25-year-old Mahomes is the prototype for throwing deep in today's NFL and has the numbers to prove it.

Before rallying the Chiefs to a Super Bowl victory over San Francisco, Mahomes led

the NFL with a passer rating of 119.1 on throws of at least 20 yards during the 2019 regular season and was the only QB with double-digit touchdowns (12).

After Mahomes left the divisional playoff last weekend, Henne threw one pass of at least 20 yards. It was incomplete. The definitive plays in clinching the victory were Henne's 13-yard scramble to set up a fourth-and-1, and his subsequent

5-yard completion to Tyreek Hill that allowed Kansas City to run out the clock.

With four of the NFL's top 12 in deep throws from the regular season still alive, it's no coincidence that the two fastest qualifying receivers, according to Sportradar's average top speed, are still playing as well.

Green Bay's Marquez Valdes-Scantling (16.6) and Hill (16.3) were the only two to surpass 16 mph among receivers per game in the regular season.

For Valdes-Scantling, the speed translated into leading the NFL at 20.9 yards per catch. Buffalo's Gabriel Davis was fourth at 17.1, and all four remaining teams had at least one receiver in the top 20 in yards per catch.

"I think it's all predicated on the situation," Packers coach Matt LaFleur said. "If those looks present themselves, then certainly we have a lot of confidence in Aaron's ability to push the ball down the field accurately and our guys have been doing a nice job of running precise routes and coming up with big plays."

Brady's final two seasons with the Patriots were notable for the missing threats at receiver on the outside, and he had his lowest consecutive years of 20-plus-yard throws in almost a decade.

Mike Evans and company with the Buccaneers reserved that trend immediately, which stood to reason with the 43-year-old Brady joining coach Bruce Arians' "no risk it, no biscuit" philosophy after

years of emphasis on a shorter passing game that utilized running backs.

There were some bumps along the way, but Tampa Bay ended up second in the NFL in passing behind Mahomes and the Chiefs.

"We knew we were a work in progress," offensive coordinator Byron Leftwich said. "We still are."

Buffalo's Allen knows a little something about progress. The third-year pro's attempts on deep balls have gone down from 5.4 as a rookie to 4.2. But Allen's completions on those throws have nearly doubled.

Where Allen was forcing deep passes while completing barely 50% of his throws overall with a passer rating of 67.9 two years ago, the 24-year-old almost hit a 70% completion rate this regular season. His 107.2 passer rating was fourth in the NFL, with Rodgers and Mahomes among the three above him.

Buffalo's offseason trade for Stefon Diggs was a big boost for Allen, with Diggs earning his first All-Pro nod after leading the league in catches (127) and yards receiving (1,535).

"Ultimately, what we tell our wideouts and our skill players is your main job is to get open and catch the ball," offensive coordinator Brian Daboll said. "The quarterback's main job is to make a good decision and throw it accurately and on time."

With or without Mahomes among the final four quarterbacks, there's a decent chance that throw will be well down the field.

## Woods has 5th back surgery, to miss Torrey Pines and Riviera

**NEW YORK (AP)—**Tiger Woods has suffered a setback with his back, disclosing Tuesday that he recently had a fifth surgery that will keep him from starting the year until after the West Coast Swing on the PGA Tour.

Woods will not play next week in the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines, which he has won seven times, most recently in 2013. He also won the U.S. Open in 2008 at Torrey Pines, which hosts the U.S. Open again in June.

He also will miss the Genesis Invitational on Feb. 18-21 at Riviera, where he serves as tournament host.

In a statement from his TGR Foundation, which Woods also tweeted, he did not say when he had the microdiscectomy surgery. It was to remove a pressurized disc fragment that was giving him nerve pain during the PNC Championship last month that he played with 11-year-old son Charlie.

Doctors said the operation

was a success and predicted a full recovery, according to the statement.

"I look forward to begin training and am focused on getting back out on tour," Woods said.

The year Woods last won at Torrey Pines is when back problems began to surface. He had his first microdiscectomy right before the 2014 Masters, and then he had two more in September and October of 2015.

The fourth surgery in April 2017 was a major one, to fuse his lower spine. Woods' return was successful, leading to a victory in the 2018 Tour Championship — his first in five years — and he capped it off by winning the Masters in 2019, his 15th major and his first in 11 years.

When he won the Zozo Championship in Japan in the fall of 2019, he tied Sam Snead's career victory record with No. 82, and the record

seemed to be only a matter of time. But he was never in serious contention all of last year and missed a full month with a minor back issue before golf was shut down by the COVID-19 pandemic.

When he returned in July, he didn't finish better than a tie for 37th at the PGA Championship in seven tournaments he played. In six of those events where he made the cut, he finished a combined 107 shots out of the lead.

He turned 45 at the end of last year, and his surgery count is now up to 10 — five on his left knee, five on his back.

Woods said after he tied for 38th in his Masters title defense that he has days that are harder than others.

"My body just has moments where it just doesn't work like it used to," he said in November. "No matter how hard I try, things just don't work the way they used to, and no matter how much I push and ask

of this body, it just doesn't work at times. Yes, it is more difficult than others to be motivated at times."

"Yes, because things just ache and have to deal with things that I've never had to deal with before."

He played the PNC Championship with his son and they finished seventh.

Woods plans to be at Riviera in his role as tournament host. The statement said only that he would miss Torrey Pines and Riviera. He has not been as predictable with his schedule in recent years leading to the Masters on April 8-11.

The World Golf Championships event recently played in Mexico has moved to Florida and follows the West Coast Swing. Then it's Bay Hill, where Woods has won eight times (all before his back surgeries) but has skipped the last two years, and The Players Championship. There are three more tournaments after that before the Masters.





# Springer agrees to \$150M, 6-year deal with Jays

**TORONTO (AP)**—All-Star outfielder George Springer became the most prominent among baseball's free agents to reach an agreement this offseason, a \$150 million, six-year contract with the Toronto Blue Jays, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday night because the deal was subject to a successful physical.

It would be the largest contract in team history.

Springer, who turned 31 in September, is a three-time All-Star who has spent his entire seven-season career with Houston and was the World Series MVP when the Astros beat the Los Angeles Dodgers in seven games for their first title in 2017. The championship was later tainted when it was discovered Houston illicitly stole signs that season.

Springer hit .265 with 14 homers and 32 RBIs during the shortened 2020 season, earning a prorated \$7,777,778 from a \$21 million salary.

He has a .270 career average with 174 home runs and 458 RBIs, including career bests of .292 with 39 homers



AP  
In this Sept. 24, 2020 file photo, Houston Astros' George Springer catches the ball in during a baseball game against the Texas Rangers in Arlington, Texas.

and 96 RBIs in 2019.

Under new owner Steve Cohen, the New York Mets also were said to be interested in Springer.

A slow free agent market saw only 21 of 181 players who became free agents following the World Series enter Tuesday with finalized agreements.

The Blue Jays have an emerging young core and are able to add at least one major

contract before their younger players like Bo Bichette and Vladimir Guerrero Jr. earn a lot more. Toronto has been linked to most of the top free agents this winter, but now has the one it wanted most.

The upstart Blue Jays went 32-28 during the pandemic-altered 2020 season, finishing third in the AL East behind Tampa Bay and the New York Yankees and qualifying for the expanded postsea-

son. They were swept in two games by the AL champion Rays in a first-round series.

Toronto had success despite moving its home games to Buffalo, New York, after the Canadian government didn't allow the team to play in Canada because of the COVID-19 risk of frequent travel throughout the U.S. It's not clear where the Blue Jays will begin the 2021 season.

The Blue Jays have had to overpay free agents to play in Canada before, but the Springer contract will be just the second \$100 million-plus deal in team history. Vernon Wells and the Blue Jays agreed to a \$126 million, seven-year contract in 2006. At the time it was sixth-largest deal in base-

ball history.

Because Springer turned down an \$18.9 million qualifying offer, Houston will receive an extra pick in next July's amateur draft after the fourth round and Toronto will lose its second-highest draft pick and also forfeit \$500,000 of international signing bonus pool space for the 2022-23 signing period.

Meanwhile, left-hander José Quintana has agreed to an \$8 million, one-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press on Tuesday night.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement is subject to a successful physical.

## MHS

From Page 20

Abigail Decena, Katrina Costales, Jenisha Dubral, Sherry Zhu, and Deajah Benavente will play for MHS 3, while MHS 4 will lean on Jillian Ferrer, Ale'a Duenas, Sheenah Gatdula, Ikeesha Aquininoc, Lyena Dela Cruz, and Alianna Sublemente.

The Lady Dolphins, who will be coached by Lauren Celis and Tyce Mister, will be up against two teams each from GCA and SIS. Anna Nunez, Kim and Katrina Dilse, Clerisse Dacumos, Aubrey Castro, and Yupapan Karsuaythong are on GCA 1, while GCA 2 members include Katriel Saures, Soleil Lamar, Hye Jin Elliot, Vicky Wang, and Audrey Castro. SIS 1 has Serin Chung, Julianne Hall, Cevina Hwang, Guy Yeon

Kim, and MayryZon Tybaco on its roster, while SIS 2 lineup has Tiana Cabrera, Seiyul Hong, Stephanie Kim, SeoHee Lee, Claire Park, and HeyonBo Shim.

The opening games in the women's division will be played at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan sand courts, starting at 8:15am. The first set of matches will have GCA 1 taking on MCS 2; GCA 2 battling MHS 1; SIS 1 facing MHS 2; and SIS 2 meeting MHS 3.

In the men's division, which will kick off on Jan 30, MHS 1 has Nilo Calimag, Jasper Perez, Blake Mister, John Justo, Raiki Tababa, and Akira Kadokura on its roster. Troy Laniyo, Jigger Parayaoan, Praise Woo, Ronian Laxamana, and William Arriola are the members of MHS 2, while MHS 3 listed Fael Pagaduan, John Bayking, Erwin Aguirre,

Bengee Berdan, Raymond Deleon Guerrero, and Sunny Kaipat on its lineup.

GCA has only one team in the men's field and the Eagles will bank on William Kim, Steven Balakrishna, Ryan Daproza, Anthony Deleon Guerrero, Christian Pamintuan, and Akira Ota.

SIS is fielding two squads with Frederic Guintu, Gael Kim, Kwang Ko Lim, Woon Woo and Yun Woo Nam, Jason Sablan, and Sean Lee on SIS 1 and Matthew Berline, Andrew Chung, Hyun Min Cho, Deon Yeon Kang, Seung Hyun Kim, Jessie Sablan, and Kuu Nishimura included on SIS 2 roster.

Rota and Tinian are also competing, but won't be seeing action in the preliminary matches, as they will automatically move into the play-off round.

protocols set by our local task force and the recommendation of Little League."

SLLB will also meet with teams this month to discuss these safety measures and other important matters about the planned 2021 season.

Meanwhile, SLLB met with Northern Mariana Sports Association, which oversees the management of the Oleai Sports Complex with the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs. The complex houses the Francisco "Tan

Ko" Palacios and Miguel "Tan Ge" ballfields, which SLLB utilizes for its games.

The two ballfields sustained damage from Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018, prompting SLLB to hold games only for Minor and Majors divisions at the Capitol Hill Ballfield in 2019. NMSA has since worked on repairs and other improvements at the sports complex and will also have major renovations under Federal Emergency Management Agency-funded projects.

## LITTLE

From Page 20

"safe and healthy environment for all children."

Borja said that besides the recommendation from Little League, they will also work on the safety measures required by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force.

"Our priority will always be the safety of our kids and the people involved with our Little League program," Borja said. "We will adhere to the

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Final Four  
QBs share  
affinity for  
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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Little League season possible

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

The Saipan Little League Baseball is positive that it can hold a competition for the 2021 season amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

SLLB president Mike Borja said they have met with stakeholders in the program and will sit down with more groups to discuss how Little League matches can proceed safely under the current situation the CNMI is in.



the U16 age group (Minor, Major, Junior and Senior League).

Little League Baseball, Inc., which sanctions Little League matches in the CNMI, called off the 2020 season for majority of its members and eventually the World Series due to the pandemic. This year, Little League has given members the signal to go ahead with their competitions, but has strongly encouraged them to have a Safety Awareness Program (ASAP) Safety Plan that could include a coronavirus mitigation protocol to create a

See LITTLE on Page 19



## MHS enters 7 teams in beach v-ball league



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Dylan Mister, seen here in the 2018 file photo chasing down the ball during the Hope For Tomorrow Yutu Relief Fundraiser Beach Volleyball Tournament, will play for one of Marianas High School's three teams in the interscholastic league.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



Marianas High School is fielding seven teams in the 2020-

2021 Public School System Interscholastic 4v4 Beach Volleyball League.

As rosters for the competition have been completed in time for this Saturday's opening, MHS listed four squads for the women's division and three in the men's. Grace Christian Academy and Saipan International School have also turned in their lineups, joining early birds Agape Christian School and Mt. Carmel School.

Siblings Aiko and Nichko Rasiang, Fatima Monterubrio, Madelleen Narcico, and Nathanette Blas will suit up for MHS 1, while MHS 2 will have Raylynn Singa, Varelei and Vinalei Hapdei, Sydney Hinds, Arisa Custodio, and Kepina Tababa. Rayna Deleon Guerrero,

See MHS on Page 19

In this 2018 file photo, an NSA Braves pitcher, right, attempts to catch the, while a Cubs runner slides home and his teammate stays at the plate during their game in the Minor division of the Saipan Little League Baseball at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In this undated file photo, the Little Legals' Kaipo Dikito gets ready to pitch, while a Bank of Saipan runner prepares to leave second base during their game in the Majors division.